

Jaarverslag O*platform: werkjaar 3

Gelieve bondig op volgende vragen te antwoorden. Als richtsnoer willen we vragen het verslag te beperken tot 8 à 12 pagina's. Gelieve waar relevant te verwijzen naar het origineel ingediende logisch kader en hierbij aan te halen welke doelstellingen en outputs reeds behaald werden, welke nog in proces zijn en welke (nog) niet behaald werden. Het verslag dient zowel elektronisch als in hard copy (2 ondertekende exemplaren) verstuurd te worden voor 31 maart 2012 naar VLIR-UOS, t.a.v. Sam Geerts, Bolwerksquare 1a, 1050 Brussel. Voor meer informatie kan u steeds terecht bij sam.geerts@vliruos.be of op 02-289 05 70.

1 Administratie

Naam O*platform	Improved Aid Architecture and Aid Effectiveness
Promotor	Robrecht Renard
Praktische leiding	Karel Verbeke
Focal point DGOS	Julia Zhyzko
Vervangend focal point DGOS	Maarten Lievens (until end 2011)
Rapporteringsperiode (start-einde dag/maand/jaar)	15/03/2011 tot 14/03/2012

2 Wetenschappelijk onderzoek (80%)

Omschrijf kort de activiteiten/mijlpalen van de onderzoeksgroep in het algemeen gedurende het afgelopen werkjaar en geef aan waar de *core funding* (80 % van de financiën) van het O*platform een fundamentele bijdrage heeft geleverd.

Directly, the VLIR-funding has contributed to the appointment of three research assistants who have directly and indirectly contributed to the research output of the thematic group aid policies within the IOB.

Indirectly, the O*Platform has been an important instrument to obtain insights in the reality of aid, both on the ground in developing countries, in donor headquarters and field offices and within the international institutions like DAC or EC. In this way, the Platform has contributed to the education and research activities of all the members of the Platform.

Finally, the integration and close collaboration between the O*Platform and other members of the thematic group Aid Policies at the IOB has made it possible for non-O*Platform TG-members to participate in O*Platform studies, as a result of which O*Platform members had more time to focus on other publications and extra consultancies.

In March 2011, the O*Platform organized, in collaboration with DGD Brussels, a seminar titled "The Aid Architecture debate beyond Busan". During this seminar the 5 policy briefs produced by the O*Platform were presented during three presentations (see output under 80%). The audience

consisted of DGD and BTC-staff and various organisations (NGOs, consultancy...) working on development cooperation in Belgium.

Bent u als onderzoeksgroep kunnen groeien binnen uw universiteit, volgens de evaluatienormen en – sjablonen gehanteerd door uw universiteit (criteria dienstverlening/onderwijs/onderzoek, met bijhorende weging)?

The VLIR core funding has been used by the research team to employ three researchers. The results for the thematic group have been threefold:

1. Service Delivery The permanent employment of three researchers has functioned as a catalyst for attracting other externally financed advisory work.
2. Education The insights in the new aid architecture, that were partially gathered through the O*Platform, have been integrated in the education activities provided by the thematic group.
3. Research Collaboration of the researchers with more senior staff of the O*Platform and thematic group resulted in a number of publications.

Welke fysieke outputs werden geleverd in het kader van het O*platform gedurende het afgelopen werkjaar (publicaties, seminaries, website, conferenties, beleidsrapporten, ...)?

The LogFrame lists the following outputs:

1.1 to do research and translate results into publications:

- Articles:
 - Huyse H., Molenaers N., Phlix G., Bossuyt J. and Fonteneau B. (2012) "Evaluating NGO-capacity development interventions : enhancing frameworks, fitting the (Belgian) context", *Evaluation: the international journal of theory, research and practice* 18:1(2012), p. 129-150
 - Dewachter S. and Molenaers N. (2011) "Who takes a seat at the pro-poor table? Determinants of civil society participation in poverty-reduction strategies", *Latin American research review* 46:3(2011), p. 112-132
 - Molenaers N., Dewachter S., and Dellepiane S. (2011) "Moving into the New Aid Approach, Dilemmas for NGOs: The Belgian Case", *Public Administration and Development* 31: 188–204.
 - Molenaers, N. and Nijs, L. (2011) "Why the European Commission fails to adhere to the principles of good donorship: the case of the governance incentive tranche", *European Journal of Development Research* 23 (3): 409-425.
 - Cassimon, D., Essers, D. and Renard R. (2011) "An Assessment of Debt-for-Education Swaps. Case Studies on Swap Initiatives between Germany and Indonesia and between Spain and El Salvador", *Comparative Education* 47 (2): 139-156.
- Books:
 - Berlage, L. and Renard, R. (eds.) (2011) *Ontwikkelingslanden en de nieuwe wereldorde*, Leuven/Den Haag, Acco
- Chapters in books:
 - Renard, R. and Molenaers, N. (2011) "Budgetsteun en het nieuwe denken rond ontwikkelingshulp", in: *Ontwikkelingslanden en de nieuwe wereldorde*, Leuven/Den Haag, Acco: 97-124
 - Berlage L. and Renard R. (2011) "Inleiding" in: *Ontwikkelingslanden en de nieuwe wereldorde*, Leuven/Den Haag, Acco: p. 9-19
 - Cassimon, D. and Essers D. (2011) "Een kameleon genaamd schuldverlichting", in: Roosens P., Claessens E. en Stavreska V. (eds.) *Wereldwijd Bekeken: Essays in IMD*, Antwerpen, Universitas, 95-126.
- Discussion and working papers:

- Holvoet, N., Inberg, L. and Songco, K.M. (2012) "Evaluations: How Solid is the Evidence? META-Evaluation of the Country Evaluations of the Phase II Paris Declaration Evaluation", IOB Working Paper 2012.01, Antwerp, Institute of Development Studies and Management.
- Molenaers, N., Nijs, L. and Huyse, H. (2011) "The Belgian NGO Landscape and the Challenges of the New Aid Approach: Dealing with Fragmentation and Emerging Complexities", Discussion Paper 2011.02, Antwerp, Institute of Development Policy and Management. (pdf-file)
- Molenaers, N., Cepinskas, L. and Jacobs, B. (2011) "Budget Support and Policy/Political Dialogue. Donor Practices in handling (political) Crises", IOB Discussion Paper 2011.01, IOB, Antwerp.
- Renard, R. and Verbeke, K. (2011) "Development cooperation with middle-income countries", IOB Working Paper 2011.11, Antwerp, Institute for Development Policy and Management
- Cassimon, D., Prowse, M. and Essers, D. (2011) "Financing the Clean Development Mechanism through Debt-for-Efficiency Swaps? Case study Evidence from a Uruguayan Wind Farm Project" Working Paper 2011.06, Antwerp, Institute of Development Policy and Management (pdf-file)
- Holvoet, N. and Inberg, L. (2011) "Gender mainstreaming within the context of changing aid modalities: evidence from Tanzania.", Working Paper 2011-03, Antwerp: Institute of Development Policy and Management.
- Holvoet, N. and Inberg, L. (2011) "Sector monitoring and evaluation systems in the context of changing aid modalities: the case of Niger's health sector", Working Paper 2011-02, Antwerp: Institute of Development Policy and Management.
- Holvoet, N., Dewachter, S. and Gildemyn, M. (2011) "Strengthening National Evaluation Societies. An Exploratory Survey.", Antwerp, University of Antwerp, Institute of Development Policy and Management, 44p.
- Newspaper/magazine articles:
 - Molenaers, N. (2011) "Waar voor je geld? De paradox van goede ontwikkelingshulp", MO*Dossier Ontwikkelingshulp 3.0

1.2 to present research results at international conferences:

- Cassimon, D. (2011) "Debt relief as disguised budget support", 2011 Global Development Finance Conference", Dubai, November 9, 2011
- Holvoet, N. and Inberg, L. (2011) "Gender Mainstreaming within the context of changing aid modalities: evidence from Tanzania", EADI General Conference, September 2011.
- Cassimon, D. (2011) "Lessons and further potential of debt swaps for educations", meeting of the 'Advisory panel of experts on debt swaps and innovative approaches to educational financing', Paris, Unesco, May 19-20, 2011.
- Holvoet, N. (2011) "Sector Monitoring and Evaluation Systems in the context of changing aid modalities: The case of Rwanda's and Niger's Health Sector", IDEAS Conference, Jordan, April 11-15, 2011

2.1. to supervise master theses and PhDs on the topics of the O*platform:

- Master theses
 - The Impacts of Debt Swaps on Development in Indonesia
 - The macroeconomic Management of Foreign Aid Inflows in the Democratic Republic of Congo (period:1990-2010)
 - Analysis of Zambia's National Monitoring and Evaluation System in the Context of Changing Aid Modalities
 - Joint Sector Reviews: What Implications to the M&E systems of the Education and

Health Sectors in Rwanda

- Meta-evaluation of the Second-Phase Evaluation of the Implementation of the Paris Declaration Commitments
- Monitoring and Evaluation Reform Agenda of the Recipient Government and Some Donor Agencies: The Case of the Philippines
- Is Real Exchange Rate Affected by the Flow of Foreign Aid: What Does the Evidence show in Ethiopia?
- To what extents ODA affects the Human development in Sub-Sahara Africa? Panel data Analysis and Policy implications for Burundi
- The Aid Effectiveness Agenda in Zambia (Opportunities and Challenges)
- The Politics of Aid. The Zimbabwe Dilemma
- PhD students
 - What lessons can Chinese aid draw from traditional donor's experiences, Bert Jacobs, research and teaching assistant IOB (supervision: Nadia Molenaers)
 - M&E and civil society in the context of changing aid modalities, Marie Gildemyn, research and teaching assistant IOB (supervision Nathalie Holvoet)
 - Supporting policy reform in the new aid paradigm, Lode Smets, research and teaching assistant IOB (supervision Robrecht Renard)
 - An assessment of the monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system used in the implementation of the Social-Economic Development Plan (SEDP) in Vietnam: the case of Cam Lo district, Quang Tri province, Minh Tri Ha, mixed PhD scholarship of BTC (supervision Nathalie Holvoet).

2.2 to teach ITPs and master courses where research and results are valorized and transmitted to students from the South:

- All senior team members are involved in the modules 'Managing aid' and 'Evaluating Development Effectiveness' that are part of the Master in Development Evaluation and Management that is taught at the IOB, University of Antwerp (25-30 students)
- Prof. Dr. Danny Cassimon is the academic coordinator for 'Debating Development', a series of debates organized as a interfaculty course that can be taken as an elective course for credit by a lot of students at the University of Antwerp, and is largely financed by VLIR. In the academic year 2011-12, this series had as an umbrella theme 'Environment and Development: Friends of Foes?'. The thematic Group also organized two sessions in this program:
 - Tuesday 18 October: "Is climate change a pressing development priority?" Martin Livermore (The Scientific Alliance) and Serban Scriciu (United Nations Environment Programme)
 - Tuesday 25 October: "Climate change challenges for development cooperation: what issues to address?" Neil Bird (Overseas Development Institute, UK) and Paul Renier (European Commission)

3.1 Translate academic research into policy relevant conclusions and recommendations

- *Extra consultancies that could be taken up due to the collaboration of the researchers:*
 - Cassimon, D. and Verbeke, K. "Joint Evaluation of Debt relief to DR Congo" Evaluation for the Special Evaluation Office, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Belgium and IOB-Netherlands, together with S. Marysse, T; De Herdt and the University of Kinshasa and Ecorys Netherlands.
 - Cassimon, D. and Verbeke, K. "Evaluation of Belgian Debt Relief Policy 2000-2009". Evaluation for the Special Evaluator of the Belgian Development Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Belgium.
- *Reports (reports marked with a * are written on demand of DGD and counted as output on the 20%):*

- Holvoet, N. and Inberg, L. (2011) "Stocktaking and Assessing M&E arrangements in Rwanda's Health Sector: Evidence from Desk and Field Study", Study in the context of the formulation of Belgian Sector Budget Support to Rwanda's Health Sector.*
- Holvoet, N. and Inberg, L. (2012) "Sector Monitoring and Evaluation Systems in the context of Changing Aid Modalities: The case of Uganda's Health Sector", Study for DGD and BTC in the context of the O*Platform Aid Effectiveness, Antwerp, Institute of Development Studies and Management.*
- Renard, R. and Verbeke, K. (2011) "Cooperating with middle-income countries – A background study for DGD", Study for DGD in the context of the O*Platform Aid Effectiveness, Antwerp, Institute of Development Studies and Management.*
- Cassimon, D. and Essers, D. (2011) "Overview of Debt Relief Policies, Debt Size and Lessons from Debt Swaps for Education", in: UNESCO (ed.) Debt Swaps and Debt Conversion Development Bonds for Education, report for Advisory Panel of Experts on Debt Swaps and Innovative Approaches to Education Financing, (August): 13-30.
- *Policy Briefs (all written on demand of DGD and counted as output on the 20%)*
 - Molenaers, N. and Renard, R. (2011) "Budget Support and Political Conditionalities", Policy brief 1, The Aid Architecture Debate: Beyond Busan, Antwerp, Institute for Development Policy and Management, 4 blz.
 - Molenaers, N. (2011) "The Role of Civil Society in Poverty Reduction Strategies", Policy brief 2, The Aid Architecture Debate: Beyond Busan, Antwerp, Institute for Development Policy and Management, 4 blz.
 - Holvoet, N. (2011) "The Paris Declaration and the Accra Agenda for Action through a Gender Lens", Policy brief 3, The Aid Architecture Debate: Beyond Busan, Antwerp, Institute for Development Policy and Management, 4 blz.
 - Holvoet, N. and Inberg, L. (2011) "Monitoring and Evaluation in the Context of Changing Aid Modalities", Policy brief 4, The Aid Architecture Debate: Beyond Busan, Antwerp, Institute for Development Policy and Management, 4 blz.
 - Cassimon, D. (2011) "Debt Relief as Disguised Budget Support", Policy brief 5, The Aid Architecture Debate: Beyond Busan, Antwerp, Institute for Development Policy and Management, 4 blz.
- *Other presentations made by the team (presentations marked with a * are presented on demand of DGD and counted as output on the 20%):*
 - Cassimon, D. 10 times per year, infocycle BTC Development Cooperation, "IMF en Wereldbank en de huidige werking van de financiële hulp- en ontwikkelingsarchitectuur".
 - Renard, R. and Verbeke K. (2012) "Development cooperation with middle-income countries", ITG International Health Policies Cluster Meeting: Perspectives on Busan and EU external action aid instruments, ITG, January 31, 2012
 - Holvoet, N. (2012) "Gender en ontwikkeling: concepten, beleidsbenadering en analyse-instrumenten" , Opleiding Intercultureel Management, Centrum voor Intercultureel Management en Internationale Communicatie, Mechelen, January 30, 2012
 - Molenaers, N. (2012) "De rol van de civiele maatschappij in hulp en ontwikkeling: de 'nieuwe' hulp benadering toegelicht" , Opleiding Intercultureel Management, Centrum voor Intercultureel Management en Internationale Communicatie, Mechelen, January 23, 2012
 - Holvoet, N. and Inberg, L. (2012) "Assessment of sector monitoring and evaluation systems. Findings from health sector M&E systems in Rwanda and Uganda", Debriefing for DGD and BTC, DGD, January 19, 2012*
 - Cassimon, D. (2012) "De internationale instellingen en de huidige werking van de financiële hulp- en ontwikkelingsarchitectuur", Opleiding Intercultureel Management, Centrum voor Intercultureel Management en Internationale Communicatie, Mechelen,

January 7, 2012

- Molenaers, N. (2011) "Ontwikkelingsactoren op zoek naar de Heilige Graal. Opportuniteiten en uitdagingen", Gemeente Geel, Geel, October 1, 2011
- Molenaers, N. (2011) "The New Aid Approach versus Projects and Technical Assistance?", VVOB-seminar, Drogen, September 26, 2011.
- Renard, R. (2011) "The aid effectiveness debate: are donors learning the lessons?", Parliament of Estonia, Tallinn, May 26, 2011.
- Renard, R. (2011) "On the use of country classifications in making strategic decisions", attaché-days, Brussels, May 3, 2011*
- Cassimon, D. (2011) "Een kameleon genaamd schuldverlichting", 4x4 Ontwikkelingssamenwerking Anders Bekeken, Antwerpen, 19 April 2011. (only in Dutch)
- Molenaers, N. (2011) "Policy Dialogue and the New Aid Approach: Between principles and practices", EC EuropAid Workshop on Policy Dialogue, Brussels, April 4, 2011
- Molenaers, N. (2011) "Budget support and the governance challenge", O*Platform Aid Effectiveness Seminar: "The Aid Architecture debate beyond Busan", Egmont Palace, Brussels, March 30 2011
- Holvoet, N. (2011) "M&E and gender", O*Platform Aid Effectiveness Seminar: "The Aid Architecture debate: beyond Busan", Egmont Palace, Brussels, March 30, 2011
- Cassimon, D. (2011) "Debt Relief as Disguised Budget Support", O*Platform Aid Effectiveness Seminar: "The Aid Architecture debate: beyond Busan", Egmont Palace, Brussels, March 30, 2011
- Holvoet, N. (2011) "Aid Effectiveness and Gender Equality", Practitioners' Network for European Development Cooperation Workshop on Strengthening Implementation of the EU Gender Equality Action Plan, Brussels, March 23, 2011
- Holvoet, N. (2011) "Gender Mainstreaming in General Budget Support: What to do to enhance a gender-sensitive dialogue?", DEVCO, Brussels, March 21-22, 2011

Website:

The O*Platform website is used to disseminate presentations and documents made by the team: www.ua.ac.be/dev/aid_effectiveness. For the researchers of the Platform, an internal network is set up, through which documentation related to the Platform's research interests is made accessible.

Friday Update

The Friday update is a regular newsletter with recent news/blogs/papers on aid and aid effectiveness. It is distributed to an extensive list of policy makers, researchers, consultants... in development cooperation.

Welke wijzigingen waren er in de bezetting van de onderzoeksgroep? (bijv. aflopende en nieuwe doctoraten, contracten,...)

During the third year of the O*Platform, Anna Gagiano joined the O*Platform as junior researcher governance and aid (CV see Annex)

The substitute focal point, Maarten Lievens, left DGD.

3 Wetenschappelijke dienstverlening (20%)

Hoe verloopt de samenwerking met DGD? Werden voldoende beleidsrelevante vragen gesteld door DGD, ter invulling van de zogenaamde trekkingsdagen? Werden deze tijdig gesteld?

As illustrated in the third annual plan, a major part of the 20%-window of the platform was already planned at the beginning of the year. A number of larger research projects occupy the majority of the days. These are well planned in consultation with DGD.
The remainder of the days are allocated in response to demands that arise in a shorter timeframe.

Werd de 20%-80% werklastverdeling tussen respectievelijk dienstverlening aan DGOS en eigen onderzoek in grote lijnen gerespecteerd?

As the demands from DGD, certainly the most important ones, have been closely aligned with the team members' research agendas, academic research and policy advisory work have been well balanced.

Geef in onderstaande tabel de ingevulde trekkingsdagen van het tweede jaar weer, met het saldo aan eventueel niet ingevulde dagen.

Vraag naar wetenschappelijke dienstverlening met verwijzing naar het logframe	Geleverde output	Besteed aantal trekkingsdagen
3.1 Translate academic research into policy relevant conclusions and recommendations		
Assessment tool on sector M&E systems of partner countries	Application of the assessment tool: Rwanda (mission and report)	10 days
	Application of the assessment tool: Uganda's health sector (preparatory desk study, mission and report)	15 days
	Debriefing on the findings from the studies in Rwanda and Uganda	1 day
Gathering evidence to inform HLF-4	Progress since Paris and the way forward after Busan: selection of BOS-O*Platform output. 6 Policy Briefs	9 days
3.2 Formulate case-studies and studies on best practices with recommendations for DGDC		
Input in a Belgian strategy for development cooperation in middle income countries	Background study on cooperating with middle-income countries	10 days
3.3 Create training materials to be used by DGDC in internal trainings		
4.1 Organise training sessions for DGDC/BTC staff, for local attachés		
5.1 Participate in seminars, meetings in Brussels or in the field		
Presentation attaché-days	Presentation on the use of country classifications for the attaché-days	1 day

Presentation junior diplomats	Presentation for the junior diplomats on aid	1 day
Support on Debt Management	Participation to the DMF stakeholder's forum and steering committee meeting (Berne, 8-10 June 2011)	3 days
5.2 Participate in short missions or as experts in multi-donor missions		
Support on Debt Management	Participation to the conference and Steering Committee meeting on Debt Management Facility, organized by the World Bank, Tunis, 28 March-April 1, 2010	3 Days
5.3 Punctual advisory work via mail or meetings		
Input in Belgian reaction on WDR 2012	Note with comments on WDR 2012 and implications of WDR 2012 on Belgian cooperation	1 day
5.4 Follow-up specific files		
Som van alle trekkingsdagen		54/53
Saldo t.o.v. het voorziene aantal trekkingdagen		-1

4 Netwerk

Waren er wijzingen in het netwerk in de loop van werkjaar 2 (nieuwe leden, leden die niet langer tot het netwerk behoren)?

During the third working year, the contacts with most members of the network have been maintained while a number of new members might be added:

- As member of the Consortium of experts on Budget Support, Nadia Molenaers strengthened contacts with a number of network members and set up new ones: Heidi Tavakoli (ODI), Marcus Manuel (ODI), Andrew Lawson (Fiscus Ltd), David Booth (ODI), Catherine Dom (Mokoro), Mick Foster (ODI), Jonathan Beynon (EuropeAid), William Savedoff (CGDev), Rachel Hayman (ex University of Edinburgh, head of research department INTRAC), Jörg Faust (DIE), Svea Koch (DIE), Michael Hubbard (University of Birmingham)
- In preparation of a Summer School, contact have been set up with: Thomas Lawo (EADI), Suzanne von Itter (EADI), Mario Biggeri (University of Florence), Sergio Tezanos (University of Cantabria), Jonathan Fisher (University of Birmingham), Geske Dijkstra (IOB Netherlands and Erasmus University Rotterdam), Petra Krylova (Univerzita Palackého v Olomouci)

Simultaneously, members of the Platform have been asked to participated in national and international panels, working groups and platforms, what further broadens their network.

Geef eventuele nieuwe links van het O*platform met ander programma's van VLIR-UOS. Waren er links mogelijk met de sinds kort goedgekeurde GRAPs, de Waalse varianten van de O*platformen? In hoeverre zijn deze links reeds geoperationaliseerd?

Nathalie Holvoet is member of the North-team of the Institutional University Cooperation with MOI University, Kenya, project Gender Equity (Gender Equity, Research and Development).

Through the MICs-study, the O*Platform has made contact with GRAPPAX. They are working on the DGD policy note Fragile States and fragile situations. Up to now, the contacts with GRAPPAX are limited to a number of meetings in DGD where both groups presented their proceedings. Both groups keep working in parallel on their documents.

Prof. Dr. Danny Cassimon is academic responsible for 'Debating Development', a series of debates organized as a interfaculty course that can be taken as an elective course for credit by a lot of students at the University of Antwerp, and largely financed by VLIR-UOS.

Hoe wordt concreet samengewerkt binnen uw netwerk? Ontving u markante, inhoudelijke of vormelijke opmerkingen vanuit het netwerk op de werking van het O*platform?

For the work done for DGD on the 20%, no specific form of collaboration has been established with the members of the network because of the confidentiality of certain dossiers. Once the work becomes public, for example the IOB discussion papers made on the basis of the 20%-input, the results of our work are disseminated to the members of the network through the different communication channels used (mail, website, Friday Update...) and presented at the occasion of seminars or conferences. Comments and suggestions were received from members of the network on events where the output was presented, through personal contacts or through the different communication channels used (e.g. a reworked version of the MIC-study was presented at ITM).

Wat is volgens u de visibiliteit van uw O*platform op nationaal en internationaal niveau en waarom? Wat hebt u gedaan om de nationale en internationale visibiliteit te verhogen?

Nadia Molenaers was a member of the Belgian delegation to the HLF4 in Busan. Besides attending meetings with the Belgian delegation, she was able to actively attend a large number of workshops (formal and parallel) and gather on behalf of the O*Platform team a substantial number of documents, reports and briefs. After her return she gave three de-briefings on Busan (at IOB, at ITG and at ECDPM) .

Through their academic work and the work of the O*Platform, different members also participate in international networks:

- Danny Cassimon became member of the UNESCO advisory panel of experts on debt swaps and innovative financing for education
- Nathalie Holvoet is a member of the coordination committee of the Vlaams Evaluatie Platform (VEP) and of EES (European Evaluation Society) and IDEAS (the International Development Evaluation Association).
- Nadia Molenaers and Robrecht Renard participated in the OECD Working Group Aid Effectiveness
- Nathalie Holvoet is a member of the Gender and Development Working Group of the European Association of Development Research Institutes (EADI)
- N. Molenaers is member of the Budget Support Expert Consortium hosted by ODI. This network organised five meetings. The reports for this meeting can be found at the ODIwebsite.

Increasingly people find their ways to O*Platform members to request information, either documents produced by O*Platform members or specific input that is not found in the documents. The heads of DGD and BTC have distributed the Friday Update within their organisations. This will increase the knowledge within these organisations of the O*Platform.

Geef de data van stuurgroepoverleg en van (breed) netwerkoverleg.

Given that the 20% was filled in relatively easy, only 1 steering group meeting was held later in 2011 to further streamline the ongoing work and discuss a number of new proposals from DGD. As the O*Platform team has over the past years established a firm network of contacts within DGD, the demands from within DGD are often directly communicated to the members of the O*Platform. Steering Committee: 21 October 2011. No formal network meeting took place.

5 Noord versus Zuid?

Welke links met het zuiden werden reeds gelegd? Was dit verwacht/gepland of eerder via onverwachte weg? Verloopt de connectie met het zuiden volgens plan, om binnen de voorziene termijn de beoogde zuid-finaliteit (zoals beschreven in het 4-jarenplan) te bereiken?

The O*Platform's main focus group are the "drivers of change" within DGD and BTC that try to integrate and operationalize the principles of aid effectiveness in the organization. Therefore, direct links towards stakeholders in the South are not the first outcome of the Platform. They establish however during the numerous missions the Platform undertakes to the South (During the M&E field missions in Rwanda and Uganda, through interviews, contacts with Southern stakeholders (government, non-governmental organizations) have been made, but no formal links have been established).

Besides the direct links through the O*Platform, indirect links are established through the academic work parallel to the Platform, e.g. the network of IOB alumni, IOB students. During the M&E field mission in Uganda an alumni 'meet and greet' was organized, which was appreciated by the alumni who came (approximately 25). For the Uganda M&E study, alumni were also very useful sources of information.

6 Toekomst

Lijken de objectieven en verwachte resultaten zoals vermeld in het origineel logisch kader nog haalbaar? Zo niet, wat zijn de redenen?

The specific objectives formulated in the logical framework are:

- key actors of Belgian DC have an increased knowledge of & critical reflection on aid effectiveness and new aid architecture
- Belgian academic world has an increased capacity to support Belgian DC actors on aid effectiveness and new aid architecture
- (former) students from the South have an increased capacity to apply insights on new aid architecture and aid effectiveness upon return to their home countries

For the first indicator, the demands from DGD illustrate that the surge for aid effectiveness is an important objective of the daily aid management of DGD. On the second indicator we see that junior staff is progressively participating in the output of the team and O*Platform staff is asked by Flemish Universities and High Schools to present their work and ideas on the NAA. Finally, the staff's experience with the implementation of the new aid approach has resulted in better support of students on these topics and a higher numbers of students choosing such topics for their end-of-module-papers and master thesis.

The overall objectives of the project are:

- increased incorporation of insights on aid architecture and aid effectiveness in Belgian DC policy formulation and implementation
- increased incorporation of insights on new aid architecture and aid effectiveness in development management in the South

Although these objectives will need more time to be realized, we see some important progress. For the moment, for example, certain decisions of DGD illustrate that aid effectiveness is becoming more important. Demands for input on Disaster Response Preparedness, a differentiated bilateral strategy... are good illustrations of the Belgian willingness to implement the Aid Effectiveness principles in practice. This evolution has also been recognized by the DAC in its 2010 DAC Peer Review of Belgian aid. It concluded that Belgium has made significant steps forward in the

improvement of its aid effectiveness.

7 Financieel

Rekening houdend met de 4-jaren budgettering van het O*platform, verliep de budgetbesteding zoals gepland, of waren er tekorten of openstaande saldi.

With the access to additional financial resources through other research programs and consultancies (one third of the personnel cost), the financial situation remained sound.

8 Algemene opmerkingen/verzuchtingen.

Geef het meest positieve punt aan de werking binnen een O*platform tot nog toe.

The exchange between research and policy has made it possible to make scientific research relevant for policymakers, while insights from policy practice could be incorporated in scientific research.

Geef het meest beperkende punt aan de werking binnen een O*platform tot nog toe.

Working strategically with the Belgian federal government has its inherent difficulties. Technocratic drivers of change within DGD and BTC are often confronted with the strategic decisions being politicized and a parliament being unaware/uninterested/uninformed about the new reality of aid and the new aid architecture.

Hebt u nog andere suggesties over de werking van de O*platformen of de wijze van verslaggeving?

Handtekening van de promotor	Datum en plaats
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