

Jaarverslag O*platform: werkjaar 4

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.

1 Lijst van Afkortingen

BTC	Belgian Technical Cooperation
CIMIC	Centrum voor Intercultureel Management en Internationale Communicatie
DAC	Development Assistance Committee of the OECD
DC	Development Cooperation
DGD	Directorate General Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid
DMF	Debt Management Facility
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo
EC	European Commission
ETTG	European Think-Tanks Group
GRB	Gender Responsive budgeting
ILO-ITC/EC	International Labour Organization – International Training Centre/European Commission
IOB	Instituut voor Ontwikkelingsbeleid en –beheer
IOB-NL	Inspectie Ontwikkelingssamenwerking en Beleidsevaluatie (Nederlands Ministerie van Buitenlandse Zaken)
IMF	Internationaal Monetair Fonds
ITM	Institute of Tropical Medicine
KFW	Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MIC	Middle-Income Countries
MFS	Medefinancieringssysteem
NAA	New Aid Approach
NGA	Non-Governmental Actors
OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
PIDA	Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa
RL	Research Line
UA	Universiteit Antwerpen
UN	United Nations

2 Administratie

VLIR-referentienummer (zoals op het contract)	O*platform	NOPO2012PR003
Naam O*platform		Improved Aid Architecture and Aid Effectiveness
Promotor		Nadia Molenaers
Praktische leiding		Karel Verbeke
Focal point DGD		
Vervangend focal point DGD		
Rapporteringsperiode (start-einde dag/maand/jaar)		15/03/2012 tot 14/03/2013

3 Wetenschappelijk onderzoek (80%)

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

The three researchers funded from the O*Platform budget continue to enable the exploration of new research avenues related to the reality of aid practice (more on these below). Their support of service delivery activities undertaken by the senior staff enable the service delivery tasks to go ahead smoothly; their contribution to both publication inputs and outputs helps enable the translation of research findings into peer-reviewed publications. These researchers continue to develop their professional skills, including by occasionally attending training courses related to research methodologies which they plan to make use of in future studies.

The O*Platform researchers continue to collaborate with other members of the IOB's Research Line "Conditional Finance for Development" (the successor to the Thematic Group Aid Policies) which enables non-O*Platform RL-members to contribute to O*Platform studies.

In fulfillment of the obligation to organize a public seminar at least every two years, on 22 March 2013 the O*Platform organized a seminar titled: "Small reflections on big aid questions". During this seminar, the three senior researchers from the O*Platform presented the respective findings of their ongoing and completed research within the O*Platform framework. An audience of about 70 people listened to their findings and discussants from DGD and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs reacted to the work presented.

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)?

As stated above the VLIR core funding has been used to employ three researchers. The results for the research line have been threefold:

1. Service Delivery The permanent employment of three researchers has functioned as a catalyst for attracting other externally financed advisory work (such as consultancies for DGD, ILO-ITC/EC...).
2. Education The insights into the new aid architecture, largely arising from work carried out through the O*Platform, have been integrated into the education activities provided by the research line— not only within IOB, but also for outside institutes like the ITM, CIMIC, University of Utrecht, Institute for Social Studies...).
3. Research Collaboration of the researchers with more senior staff of the O*Platform and research line has resulted in a number of publications (these are listed below). In addition, a number of new research areas could be developed with the help of the O*Platform collaborators, including gender and climate change and a new database on budget support suspensions.

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

The LogFrame lists the following outputs:

1.1 to do research and translate results into publications:

- Articles:
 - Molenaers, N. (2012) "The Great Divide? Donor Perceptions of Budget Support,

- Eligibility and Policy Dialogue", *Third World Quarterly* 33(5): 791-806.
- Holvoet, N., Gildemyn, M. and Inberg, L. (2012) "Taking stock of monitoring and evaluation arrangements in the context of poverty reduction strategy papers : evidence from 20 aid-dependent countries in Sub-Saharan Africa", *Development Policy Review* 30 (6), p. 749-772
 - De Koster, K. and Holvoet, N. (2012) "Bilateral donors' efforts to assess and manage UN agencies' effectiveness : seeking a balance between Paris principles and domestic accountability", *Development policy review* 30 (4), p. 399-424
 - Holvoet, N. and Inberg, N. (2012) "Changing aid modalities through a gender lens : an international perspective and the case of Dutch development cooperation", *Journal of international women's studies* 13 (3), p. 1-16
 - Cassimon, D. (2013) "Assessing Donor-driven Debt Relieve Initiatives: A brief Overview of Theory and Practice". *GREAT Insights* 2(1):3-4.
 - Marysse, S., Cassimon, D., Verbeke, K. (2013) "Cleaning the external Debt Slate: What Difference does it make for Development in the DRC? ", *GREAT Insights* 2(1): 13-14.
 - Chapters in books:
 - Cassimon, D., Essers, D., Renard, R., Verbeke, K. (2013) "Aid Flows", in: Caprio G. (ed.) *The Evidence and Impact of Financial Globalization*, Amsterdam, Elsevier Academic Press: 81-102.
 - Marysse, S., Cassimon, D., De Herdt, T., TshiunzaMbiye, O. et Verbeke, K. (2012), "L'allégement de la dette en République démocratique du Congo. Évaluation d'une pierre angulaire de la reconstruction de la RDC", in: Marysse S. et Omasombo J. (eds.) *Conjonctures congolaises – Chroniques et analyses de la RD Congo en 2011*, Cahiers Africains 80, Brussel en Parijs, Musée Royale de l'Afrique Central et l'Harmattan: 97-124.
 - Discussion and working papers:
 - Cassimon, D. and Essers, D. (2012) "Washing away original sin: Vulnerability to Crisis and the Role of Local Currency Bonds in Sub-Saharan Africa", *IOB Working Papers* 2012.12, Antwerp: Institute of Development Policy and Management.
 - Smets, L., Knack, S. and Molenaers, N. (2012) *Political Ideology, Quality at Entry and the Success of Economic Reform Programs*, Policy Research Working Paper 6130, Washington D.C, The World Bank, Development Research Group, Human Development and Public Services.
 - Faust, J., Koch, S., Molenaers, N., Tavakoli, H. and Vanheukelom, J. (2012) "The Future of EU Budget Support: Political Conditions, Differentiation and Coordination", Discussion Paper May 2012, Overseas Development Institute, London en Policy Brief ETTG en IOB (mei): 8 blz.
 - Jacobs, B. (2012) "Wat na Busan? Kunnen de Aziatische DAC-leden de kloof tussen de oude en de nieuwe ontwikkelingsactoren dichten?" *MO*Paper* 66, 40 blz.
 - 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.
 - Cassimon, D. and Essers, D. (2013) "A Chameleon called Debt Relief", *IOB Working Papers* 2013.01, Antwerp: Institute of Development Policy and Management.
 - Cassimon D., Ferry M., Raffinot, M. and Van Campenhout, B. (2013) "Dynamic Fiscal Impact of the Debt Relief Initiatives on African heavily indebted poor Countries (HIPC)", *DIAL Working Paper* 2013-01, Paris, Université Dauphine.
 - Newspaper/magazine articles:
 - Vanheukelom, J. and Molenaers, N. (2012) "Modernising EU Budget Support or Overloading the Boat?", *ECDPM Talking Points*, A blog on the challenges of the EU's

1.2 to present research results at international conferences:

- Holvoet, N. (2012) "The role of National Evaluation Societies in developing national M&E systems. Evidence from a survey in 20 aid-dependent African countries", European Evaluation Society Biennial Conference, Helsinki, October 4, 2012.
- Holvoet, N. and Inberg, L. (2012) "Sector monitoring and evaluation systems. A comparison between the M&E systems in the health sectors of Rwanda and Uganda", European Evaluation Society Biennial Conference, Helsinki, October 5, 2012.
- Molenaers, N. and Gagiano, A. (2013) "What Determines the suspension of Budget Support in Sub-Saharan Africa", European Consortium for Political Research Joint Sessions 2013, Mainz, Germany, 11-16 March 2013
- Cassimon, D. (2012) "Original sin, debt relief and domestic bond market development: the potential role of Debt Conversion Development Bonds", African Finance Journal Conference 2012, Nairobi, April 19, 2012.

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

- Master theses
 - Development of "additional" innovative financing mechanisms for the education sector: A case of Uganda
 - Foreign aid and the fiscal response: the case of Ethiopia
 - Institutionalizing effective M&E systems: The case of the agriculture and rural development sector of Ethiopia
 - What works, what does not work: a meta-evaluation of BTC's end of term reviews
 - Feeling for the intangible: Donors' monitoring and evaluation of capacity development interventions
 - Evaluation of monitoring and evaluation in national programs in Vietnam: The case of program for most vulnerable communes facing extreme hardship in ethnic minority and mountainous areas
 - An institutional analysis of M&E arrangements in the health and education sectors in Uganda
 - Capacity building of Uganda's health sector in the new aid approach: A case study of the Infectious Diseases Institute
 - Aligning aid to existing national development policies, strategies, programmes, processes and procedures: A comparative case study of the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF) Programme and its implementation in Cambodia and Zambia
 - The Politics of Aid. The Zimbabwe Dilemma: Perceptions on the effectiveness of Zidera
 - The rise and fall of Arab Development Assistance: causes and motives of Arab aid
 - An African donor: towards understanding South African aid allocation
 - Assessing Colombia's monitoring and evaluation system: governance, the demand side and the use of the information for accountability
 - Legal and Judicial development in Albania - the Impact of external assistance and the element of incentive
- PHD students
 - Promoting African regional integration in the infrastructure sector: the case of PIDA.
 - M&E and civil society in the context of changing aid modalities
 - Supporting policy reform in the new aid paradigm
 - M&E influence in local level public sector decision-making (case study for Vietnam)
 - Impact of climate change adaptation interventions on gender and intrahousehold relations (case study for Tanzania)
 - Local level gender responsive budgeting and maternal health: comparing the impact of

- different types of GRB (case study for Uganda)
- Impact of climate change interventions (multi-country)
- Governing land reform (case study South Africa)
- Sustainable land use and governance (case study Suriname)
- EU as an emerging aid-coordinator in Africa (multi-country)

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 'National Institutions, Poverty Reduction and 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 2012-13, this series had as an umbrella theme 'Development 2.0: new players, new rules'. More than 80 UA students took this series as an elective for credit. The Research Line also organized two sessions in this program:
 - Tuesday 16 October | R.002 - The future of development cooperation: what are the upcoming challenges and opportunities?
Gilles Carbonnier (The Graduate Institute, Geneva)
Fred Van der Kraaij (former inspector at Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs)
Moderator: Olivia Rutazibwa
 - Tuesday 13 November | R.002 - Africa on the rise, the beginning of a Golden Age for Africa?
AmaUzowuru (See AfricaDifferently, UK)
Théodore Trefon (Africa Museum Tervuren, Brussels)
Moderator: Olivia Rutazibwa

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.
 - Holvoet, N. "Integration of a gender dimension in the EC sector budget support for decentralised agriculture in Rwanda", consultancy for the International Labour Organisation
 - Molenaers, N., member of the reference group for the IOB-NL study on the impact of Budget Support.
- *Reports (reports marked with a * are written on demand of DGD and counted as output on the 20%):*
 - Holvoet, N. and Inberg, L. (2012) "Sector Monitoring and Evaluation Systems in the context of Changing Aid Modalities: The case of Uganda's Education Sector", Study for DGD and BTC in the context of the O*Platform Aid Effectiveness, Antwerp, Institute of Development Studies and Management.*
 - Holvoet, N. and Inberg, L. (2012) "Integration of a gender dimension in the EC sector budget support for decentralised agriculture in Rwanda", Antwerp: Institute for Development Policy and Management, 2012

- Marysse, S., Cassimon, D., De Herdt, T., TshiunzaMbiye, O., Visser, M. and Verbeke, K. (2012), "Schoon schip: en dan? Evaluatie van de schuldverlichting aan de Democratische Republiek Congo, 2003-2010: verkorte versie", Den Haag: Ministerie van Buitenlandse Zaken, 59 p.
- Marysse, S., Cassimon, D., De Herdt, T., TshiunzaMbiye, O., Visser, M. and Verbeke, K. (2012), "Schoon schip: en dan? Evaluatie van de schuldverlichting aan de Democratische Republiek Congo, 2003-2010: samenvatting", Den Haag: Ministerie van Buitenlandse Zaken, 45 p.
- Marysse, S., Cassimon, D., De Herdt, T., TshiunzaMbiye, O., Visser, M. and Verbeke, K. (2012), "Table rase, et après? Evaluation de l'allègement de la dette en République démocratique du Congo, 2003-2010: sommaire", La Haye: Ministère des affaires étrangères, 48 p.
- Marysse, S., Cassimon, D., De Herdt, T., TshiunzaMbiye, O., Visser, M. and Verbeke, K. (2012), "Table rase, et après? Évaluation de l'allègement de la dette en République démocratique du Congo, 2003-2010: rapport principal", La Haye: Ministère des affaires étrangères, 224 p, IOB impact evaluations no. 347
- *Policy Briefs (all written on demand of DGD and counted as output on the 20%)*
- *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".
 - Holvoet, N. and Inberg, L. (2012) "Assessment of sector monitoring and evaluation systems: the education sector M&E system in Uganda", debriefing, DGD, December 20, 2012*
 - Molenaers, N. (2012) speaker/discussant at one-day conference "Budget Support: Policy, Prejudice and Practice", Scheveningen, the Netherlands, organized by IOB-NL&University of Amsterdam, Monday 3 December 2102
 - Cassimon, D. (2012) "Overview of the debt issue: debt sustainability and the role of debt relief", Conference on Debt Relief in Africa, Brussels, September 26, 2012.
 - Holvoet, N. and Inberg, L. (2012) "Assessment of sector monitoring and evaluation systems. Education sector M&E system in Uganda: debriefing preliminary findings", Debriefing, Belgian Embassy Kampala, August 28, 2012 *
 - Renard, R. "Development cooperation with middle-income countries", DAC Development Debates, June 13, 2012.*
 - Renard, R. "Improving Policy Coherence for Development In Belgium", 5th Stakeholders Meeting of Belgian Development Cooperation, Workshop 3: Which institutional structures for ensuring policy coherence for development, Egmont Palace, Brussel, May 8, 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 28, 2013
 - Cassimon, D. (2013) "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 12, 2013

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 O*Platform also sends out a regular newsletter, called the "Friday Update", which features the latest and most important blogs, reports, academic publications and news related to development cooperation in general as well as to aid effectiveness more specifically. This newsletter aims to keep readers up to date with the latest developments and stimulate informed debate. It enjoys a wide distribution among professionals working in the field of development cooperation in Belgium as well as with IOB's international alumni. Between 15 March 2012 and 14 March 2013, a total of 34 Friday Updates were sent around.

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

Due to the retirement of Prof. Robrecht Renard, Prof. Nadia Molenaers has taken over the coordination of the O*Platform.

4 Wetenschappelijk 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 our fourth Annual Plan had shown, the O*Platform was already overbooked before the start of its fourth year. This has led to a rescheduling in the work done on the 20%, in consultation with DGD:

- The new study on basket funds in fragile states has been postponed to the additional year (march 2013-december 2013) of the O*Platform. Terms of Reference are decided upon with DGD and a first deliverable has been agreed. This will be the main research topic of the additional year.
- As the assessment of the sector M&E system of the education sector in Uganda required a mission of two researchers and a mission over a longer time period, the case study on Burundi, of which the added value would be limited, has been cancelled in consultation with DGD.
- In contrast to the previous years, there was no demand from DGD to participate in the DMF stakeholder's forum and steering committee meeting.
- A number of topics (NGA strategy, MIC strategy) have been put at the forefront by DGD during the year.
- Finally, as the O*Platform team has over the past years established a firm network of contacts within DGD, a number of additional demands are directly communicated to the members of the O*Platform.
- As the study on basket funds in fragile states is taking up a major part of the drawing rights at the end of the fourth and the beginning of the fifth year, the team is not in the position to positively respond to a demand by DGD for input into the post-2015 process.

Werd de 20%-80% werklastverdeling tussen respectievelijk dienstverlening aan DGD 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 vierde jaar weer, met het saldo aan eventueel niet ingevulde dagen¹.

¹ Lege cellen betekenen dat er geen vraag gekomen is van DGD, dus 0 trekkingsdagen. Jaarplan behelst een waaier van mogelijke opties rond output, maar aangezien trekkingsdagen vraag gestuurd zijn, kan er op

Vraag naar wetenschappelijke dienstverlening	Geleverde output	Besteed aantal trekkingsdagen
3.1 Translate academic research into policy relevant conclusions and recommendations		
Study on the basket funds in fragile states.	First step: meetings and compositions of terms of reference, first literature review	6,5 days
Assessment tool on sector M&E systems of partner countries	Case Uganda education (desk and field study, finalization of report) Debriefing on the findings from the studies in Rwanda and Uganda	25 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 material for strategic note	8 days
Input for a Belgian strategy on Disaster Response Preparedness	Powerpoint and report	4 days
Input in NGA-strategy		5 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 political conditionalities	2 days
Presentation attaché-days	Presentation on a diversified bilateral strategy/cooperation with middle-income countries	1 days
Presentation Assises	Presentation on Policy Coherence for Development	2 days
Presentation DAC Development Debate "New Poverty Patterns"	Presentation on MIC cooperation	1 days
Deelname Task Team EU-DAC		1 days
Deelname DAC mid-term review Belgium		1 days
5.2 Participate in short		

voorhand geen exacte oplijsting gemaakt worden van output. Jaarverslag daarentegen toont aan welke opgelijste outputmogelijkheden (in plan) ook effectief 'in demand' gekomen zijn.

missions or as experts in multi-donor missions		
5.3 Punctual advisory work via mail or meetings		
Support on Debt Management	Debriefing on DMF	0,5 days
5.4 Follow-up specific files		
Som van alle trekkingsdagen		57
Saldo t.o.v. het voorziene aantal trekkingsdagen		0

5 Network

Waren er wijzingen in het netwerk in de loop van werkjaar 4 (nieuwe leden, leden die niet langer tot het netwerk behoren)?

During the fourth working year, the contacts with most members of the network has been maintained while a number of new members can be added:

- Nadia organized a workshop within the European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR) Joint Sessions, Mainz, Germany. Through this workshop she established contacts with a number of new network members and strengthened some of the existing links: WilHout, Gordon Crawford, Jörg Faust, Svea Koch, Christine Hackenesch, Sonja Grimm, Jonathan Fisher, etc (23 participants, coming from US and Europe) – Within that workshop, we organized a policy roundtable with Mr Ville (Head of Governance, DevCoop EU), MrWollenziel (head of KFW) and Mr. Bradley (Director IDEA Brussels Office).
- In the context of the policy advisory services for ILO-ITC/EC the already existing contacts of N. Holvoet with the ILO gender team (Benedetta Magri, Blerina Villa, etc.) have been strengthened
- Being a member of the Expert Committee for the Dutch MFS Evaluation (managed by NOW-WOTRO), N. Holvoet has established/strengthened contacts with other members of the group (including Howard White, James Copestake, Stefan Leiderer, etc.)
- In the context of the research on national evaluation societies, N. Holvoet has established contacts with national evaluation societies in the South, and with regional and international associations such as Afrea (African Evaluation Association), IOCE (International Organisation for Cooperation in Evaluation), EvalPartners, etc.
- As co-convenor of the EADI Working Group 'Gender and Development', N. Holvoet has established/strengthened contacts with different members of the working group (etc. Anouka Van Eerdewijk, J. Clancy)
- In joint research, Danny Cassimon cooperated with colleagues from Paris School of Economics and the University of Paris-Dauphine (Marin Ferry and Marc Raffinot, on fiscal response of debt relief) and with colleagues from the OECD Development Centre (Hans Blommestein, on local currency bond market development)
- In preparation of the first European Summer School on the Politics and Economics of Aid, contacts 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), GeskeDijkstra (IOB Netherlands and Erasmus University Rotterdam), Petra Krylova (Univerzita Palackého v Olomouci)

Members of the O*Platform have furthermore been asked to participate in national and international panels, working groups and platforms, which further broadens their network and illustrates their wide recognition as experts.

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?

Prof. Dr. N. Molenaers is involved in the preparation of the upcoming Vliir country strategy South Africa

Prof. Dr. N. Molenaers N. Holvoet are the promotor and co-promotor of the VLIR-approved TEAM project with Uganda The project will start in June or September 2013.

Prof. Dr. N. Holvoet is the north promoter of the South Initiative with MUST Uganda (topic: intrahousehold time allocation, gender relations and health outcomes). The project will effectively start in September/October 2013.

Prof. Dr. N. Holvoet is the team leader of the 'governance' project with Mzumbe University in Tanzania. There has been a preparatory mission in September 2012, intense collaboration with southern partner to prepare the project and the official launch of the project is scheduled for September 2013.

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.

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

Through various channels, including the Friday Update, website and e-mail results of our research have been disseminated to members of our network. Several network members have communicated informal comments and suggestions on these outputs and on the Friday Update, either through email or during presentations and debriefings. No formal collaboration has been established due to the confidentiality of certain dossiers.

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?

The Friday Update, which also include public output of the O*Platform, has increased our visibility in the sense that there is now a wide network of people (from universities, donor institutions, ngo's, think tanks etc) who frequently receive an email sent by the O*Platform containing hot-off-the-press aid-related content.

Through their academic work and the work of the O*Platform, different members have been asked to participate in international networks. This illustrates the visibility of the O*Platform and its researchers:

- 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).
- Following the publication of the O*Platform study on development cooperation with MICs, Robrecht Renard was asked by the DAC as discussant to a presentation by Andy Sumner on the Bottom Billion.
- Nathalie Holvoet is a member of the Gender and Development Working Group of the European Association of Development Research Institutes (EADI)
- N. Molenaers participates on a regular basis in reference groups for the Dutch IOB study on Budget Support

Interested parties continue to find their way to O*Platform members to request information, either in the form of documents produced by O*Platform members or specific input that is not found in the documents.

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

No steering committee took place since there is no focal point at DGD. To keep the VLIR updated on the work of the O*Platform, a progress report was sent in September 2012.
No formal network meeting took place.

6 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?

As the main focus group of this O*Platform is on the Belgian actors and drivers of change within DGD and BTC, forging direct links with stakeholders in the South feature less prominently. Nevertheless, during the Platform's missions to the South (e.g. M&E field mission to Uganda), 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 and IOB students. For the Uganda M&E study, alumni were also very useful sources of information. Moreover, two working papers have been written in co-operation with alumni (working paper on meta-evaluation with K.M. Songco (see 1.1.) and working paper on M&E systems in the health and education sectors in Uganda with S. Sekirime (forthcoming).

7 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:

1. key actors of Belgian DC have an increased knowledge of & critical reflection on aid effectiveness and new aid architecture
2. Belgian academic world has an increased capacity to support Belgian DC actors on aid effectiveness and new aid architecture
3. (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

In terms of the first point, the aid effectiveness concerns related to the daily management of aid raised by DGD demonstrate that critical reflection on this topic remains key to their operations. The development of our staff who progressively participate more decisively in the output of the team speaks to the second point – and O*Platform staff is asked by Flemish Universities and High Schools to present their work and ideas on the NAA with some regularity. Finally, the staff's experience with the implementation of the new aid approach has resulted in better support and training of students in these areas and a higher numbers of students choosing topics related to aid effectiveness for their end-of-module-papers and master theses, since the thorough expertise available in-house provides an incentive to do so.

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

Demands for input on subjects as diverse as Disaster Response Preparedness and a differentiated bilateral strategy illustrate the Belgian willingness to implement our Aid Effectiveness recommendations in practice. This evolution was also recognized by the DAC in its 2010 Peer Review of Belgian aid, and confirmed in the mid-term review according to the official DGD press release, which concluded that Belgium has made significant improvements in terms of aid effectiveness.

8 Financieel

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

As the financial resources provided by the VLIR are insufficient to finance three researchers, additional resources have been attracted through other research programs and consultancies. For the moment, these resources make it possible for the Platform to continue its policy advisory work towards DGD given the financial uncertainty.

9 Algemene opmerkingen/verzuchtingen.

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

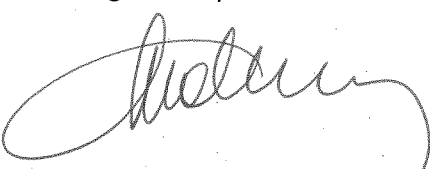
The positive feedback loop created by virtue of research insights feeding into policy recommendations and insights from policy implementation then feeding back into research allows us to produce scientific research that is relevant for policymakers, while simultaneously ensuring that experiences with policy practice serve to enrich the starting points of our 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.

During this year, more particularly, the lack of focal point within DGD has been an additional difficulty. Thanks to the established relations of O*Platform researchers with staff from DGD, the uninterrupted continuation of the O*Platform could be assured and there was no reduction in the number of days delivered on the 20%.

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

Handtekening van de promotor 	Datum en plaats Antwerpen 5 juli 2013
---	--