

HOW TO JOIN THE PARTNERSHIP

Regional and local institutions and other institutional entities can join the partnership. Interested institutions shall agree on the modalities of their participation with the coordination board by signing a specific agreement.

Individuals, universities and NGOs can support the Partnership and collaborate on specific projects.



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FOR DECENTRALIZED GOVERNANCE

MEMBERS OF THE PARTNERSHIP UP TO NOW

During the first two years of activities, the Partnership has been joined by over 100 Europeans and African entities including local institutions, national associations of local institutions, national governments and individuals.

Euro-African Partnership for Decentralized Governance

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The Euro African Partnership for Decentralized Governance aims to contribute to the strengthening of local governance in Africa by facilitating the establishment of relationships between African and European local institutions.

The initiative is the result of the cooperation between the United Nation Department of Economic and Social Affairs and Tuscany Region. Since its inception, the Partnership has welcomed the collaboration of other regions, local entities and institutions, as well as actors from Europe and Africa.

BACKGROUND

The First Conference of the European and African Regional Assemblies on "Decentralization: The New Dimension of Peace, Democracy and Development" was held in Florence in September 2004. The successful outcome of this event encouraged African and European participants to recommend the establishment of a permanent Observatory of regional and local entities in order to foster support to decentralization processes and decentralized cooperation. As result the Euro - African Partnership for Decentralized Governance was created by a financial contribution of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Italy and the Regional Assembly of Tuscany.

GOALS

- to support decentralization processes in Africa as a means to contribute to local development, good governance, democracy and peace
- to enhance the relationships among both regional and local institutions from Europe and Africa
- to facilitate the debate on strategies and models of decentralization

SOME OF THE ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT SO FAR

- study tours and trainings for local authorities and civil servants (i.e. from Niger, Burkina Faso, Rwanda, Cameroon, Ivory Cost, DRC, Mali)
- international conferences and workshops
- creation of new networks and partnerships among local authorities
- pilot projects to support local institutions (i.e. Rwanda, Burkina Faso)
- a signed agreement between UNDESA and the National Association of Italian Municipalities (ANCI) to foster the exchange among European and African local institutions
- support to the role of women in leadership positions in local government

ACTIVITIES

- creation of networks for the exchange of information and good practices among local institutions
- research and monitoring on decentralization and decentralized cooperation
- institutional training and capacity building
- support to African local institutions

The Partnership provides its partners with the following opportunities:

- channels to establish contacts
- tools and opportunities to exchange information and good practices on the issues of decentralization and decentralized cooperation
- facilitation to match the needs of someone with the resources of another
- a framework to foster programmes supporting African local institutions and to identify additional resources for specific projects

GOVERNANCE

- a board of representatives of the partners guides the programme
- a scientific committee supports the planning and monitoring of the activities
- ad hoc working groups may be formed among the partners in order to manage specific activities