Mission and Definition of Decentralised Cooperation

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

The activities of the **Euro-African Partnership** will be directed at:

- institution building and training;
- key projects focusing on specific countries, with the aim to promote decentralized governance through partnership between European and African local authorities and institutions;
- research and monitoring on decentralized governance.

The partners of the **Euro-African Partnership** will also:

- promote and share autonomous activities for decentralized governance in Africa, within the framework of the partnership;
- join specific activities organised by the Euro-African Partnership.

The Euro-African Partnership supports different partners involved in projects of decentralized cooperation in Africa.

**Decentralized Cooperation** is increasingly becoming one of the most suitable means for establishing and consolidating stable ‘north-south’ and ‘south-south’ partnerships and strengthening forms of decentralized governance. The concept of decentralized cooperation does not have a commonly accepted definition. Its framework is often traced back to the involvement of a wide range of non-state actors in development actions.

UNDP defines Decentralized Cooperation as "a long-term partnership between communities in different cities or towns and as a mechanism for establishing a novel "partnership" modality, which focuses on direct relationships between regional territories, as opposed to the model that promotes bilateral cooperation at the national level". The Euro-African Partnership fully shares the wider UNDP definition but in its specific framework it follows the direction according to which "any project, initiative, or partnership for development cooperation is..."
developed among at least one European and one African sub-national authority”. This definition has stand out from the background study on the "Contribution of Decentralized Cooperation to Decentralization in Africa", produced under the aegis of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN/DESA).