

Joint Learning Programme

on

Sector-Wide Approaches (SWAp)

Information and Call for Requests

The Joint Learning Programme on SWAp (JLP) is launching a first "call for requests" to identify countries where the main stakeholders in a specific sector would like to organise a workshop with support from the JLP. These workshops are open to donors and national partners and will be sector/theme focused.

A total of 15 workshops will be offered over 2006 and 2007 in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

In order to participate in this first selection, the attached application form should be completed and sent to the JLP Secretariat by 27 January 2006.

Rationale for the Joint Learning Programme

The Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness reaffirms the commitment of donor agencies and partner countries to more effective delivery and management of development assistance. The focus is on aligning external assistance to reinforced partner countries' strategies and systems. The sector-wide approach aims to operationalise this at sector level by mobilising national stakeholders and donor support around a comprehensive,

country-led sector development programme.

While a great deal of practical experience in SWAps has been accumulated since the mid-1990s, many new processes are now starting including in sectors/themes and in countries with limited experience in this way of working. Frequently, national stakeholders and donor agencies feel they lack the necessary skills and know-how. There is also a need to develop a common understanding of what a SWAp is about and of the required steps to successfully put the approach into practice and effectively monitor its implementation.

To answer these needs, donors participating in the "Joint Competence Development Network":

http://www.gc21.de/ibt/modules/gc21/train4dev_new/ibt/index.html

have agreed to jointly develop and co-finance the **Joint Learning Programme on SWAp**. The programme was successfully piloted in 2005 in Vietnam (for the education and health sectors) and Kenya (health and agriculture).

Objective and content

Objective: To develop capacity among donors and partner country staff to effectively participate in SWAp processes.

JLP workshops are “learning events” focusing on ongoing local processes. Events will be tailored so as to respond to local needs as defined by the partner country stakeholders and by donor agencies.

Typical outcomes of a workshop:

By the end of the event, participants should have developed their capacity to work through the sector wide approach by:

- Sharing a language and understanding of the key components of a sector programme;
- Assessing present conditions and options for actions that will contribute to the success of a sector programme;
- Understanding the roles and responsibilities of different stakeholders;
- Recognising and having resources to deal with major risks and challenges;
- Defining the next steps to move the process forward.

Which issues are typically addressed?

- Overview of Sector Approach and Sector Programmes: Key concepts, elements, modalities and processes;
- The policy framework: The links to the macro-level policies and reforms, the sector policy, resource allocation (MTEF and budget), and civil society involvement;
- The legal and institutional framework including decentralisation processes;
- Implementing sector programmes: Public financial management, institutional capacity, performance monitoring and domestic accountability mechanisms;
- Supporting Sector Programmes: Alignment and harmonisation in practice including harmonisation of systems, technical assistance, procurement etc.;
- Support modalities: Financial support, policy dialogue, knowledge service;
- Bringing it all together: Dealing with trade-offs, dilemmas, risks and the way forward.

Target audience

JLP events are for key domestic and international partners who are or may be involved in the development and management of a specific sector programme. Participation of key national partners is extremely important for the success of the workshop, as is the participation of all donors active in the sector (including agencies that are not part of the group of donors financing the JLP). Equal participation of the partner country stakeholders and donor agencies is foreseen.

The number of participants in an event should not exceed 35.

Partner country participation

The event will be particularly relevant for key staff from the concerned line ministry and/or sector agencies, both at central and decentralized levels, as well as staff from the Ministries of Finance and Planning. It may be relevant also to include key stakeholders from civil society and the private sector.

Timeframe

Selection of countries/sectors will be initiated through “call for requests”. For this first call, the deadline for applications is 27 January 2006. By the end of February 2006, 3-4 applications will be selected and the workshops will be held from April/May 2006.

A second call will be launched in May 2006 in order to select 3-4 additional workshops to be held after June-July 2006, also for Francophone audiences.

Role of the lead donor in the organisation

For each sectoral learning event the local donor community should appoint a co-ordinating agency - a role, which for practical reasons, might best be taken on by the lead donor in the sector. This agency will be responsible for:

- communicating with partner country authorities, donors and other key national stakeholders concerning the event;
- sending out invitations jointly with the national authorities and ensuring a relevant profile of participants as well

as the participation by a critical mass of stakeholders;

- interacting with the trainers, providing relevant country and sector specific background material, and jointly developing the agenda for the event;
- organising the local logistics: selecting appropriate venue and ensuring it is suitably equipped; copying the training material and preparing the trainee packages.

Who pays for what?

The JLP basket fund will cover all costs related to the preparation, delivery and reporting on the events, including trainers' fees, per diems and travel costs.

The donor community in the country will cover costs related to the renting of the workshop venue with required equipment (projectors, etc.) and copying of the training material. If the event takes place outside the capital city, the donor community will cover travel and accommodation costs for participants or arrange for participants to cover these costs from their own budgets.

JLP partners and coordination

This Joint Learning Programme is currently (December 2005) co-financed by Denmark, the European Union, Finland, Ireland, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, and Switzerland. Membership is open and other donors may be joining the group in 2006.

The Executive Committee consisting of Denmark, the European Union and the Netherlands is responsible for the management and administration of the JLP.

The Steering Committee consisting of all the participating donors has the overall responsibility for directing the JLP and taking principal decisions concerning the planning and implementation of the programme. The Steering Committee is chaired by the European Union.

For further information contact:

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