EUROPEAN UNION INSTITUTIONS

Leaving no one behind: The European Union institutions’ approach and priorities

The European Commission’s development co-operation aims to eradicate poverty, by fostering the sustainable economic, social and environmental development of developing countries. The new European Consensus on Development affirms that eradicating poverty, tackling discriminations and inequalities, and leaving no one behind are at the heart of the Commission’s policy.

The Commission works to enhance social cohesion; to reduce inequality of outcomes; and to promote equal opportunities for all, inclusive sustainable growth, and universal, sustainable and equitable social protection systems. It is committed to allocating at least 20% of its official development assistance to social inclusion and human development. It implements a rights-based approach to development, respecting all human rights and promoting inclusion and participation, non-discrimination, equality and equity, transparency and accountability. It sees this as key to leaving no one behind. Through the approach it pays particular attention to disadvantaged and marginalised groups, including children and the elderly in vulnerable situations; persons with disabilities; lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons; migrants and indigenous peoples.

The Commission is updating its programming and reporting tools to address inequalities; to further implement the rights-based approach and gender equality commitments; and to assess progress with delivery of the 2030 Agenda and the European Consensus in line with the pledge to leave no one behind.

Financial flows from the European Union institutions to developing countries

The European Union institutions’ performance against commitments for effective development co-operation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EU institutions</th>
<th>Use of country-led results frameworks</th>
<th>Funding recorded in countries’ national budgets</th>
<th>Funding through countries’ systems</th>
<th>Untied ODA</th>
<th>Predictability (%)</th>
<th>Retrospective statistics (OECD CRS)</th>
<th>Information for forecasting (OECD FSS)</th>
<th>Publishing to IATI</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alignment and ownership by partner country (%)</td>
<td>Predictability (%)</td>
<td>Transparency</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual predictability</td>
<td>Medium-term predictability</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016 Baseline</td>
<td>70.3%</td>
<td>60.2%</td>
<td>46.0%</td>
<td>71.8</td>
<td>72.8%</td>
<td>84.6%</td>
<td>excellent</td>
<td>excellent</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trend</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>67.8%</td>
<td>47.9%</td>
<td>62.3</td>
<td>87.3%</td>
<td>69.4%</td>
<td>good</td>
<td>好</td>
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Note: Please refer to Annex B for details on the indicators. Data on untied ODA, retrospective statistics and publishing to the IATI have been updated according to the latest information available.

StatLink http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933797611
The European Union institutions’ official development assistance

In 2017, the EU institutions provided USD 16.5 billion in net ODA (preliminary data), which represented a 6.7% decrease in real terms from 2016, mostly due to a lower level of loan disbursements.

The EU institutions’ share of untied ODA (excluding administrative costs and in-donor refugee costs) was 71.8% in 2016 (up from 62.3% in 2015). Loans represented 5.3% of gross ODA.

In 2016, almost all of the EU’s gross ODA (98.4%) was provided bilaterally. The EU channelled 18.5% of its bilateral ODA for projects implemented by multilateral organisations (multi-bi/non-core).

In 2016, 51.6% of the EU institutions’ bilateral ODA was programmed with partner countries. Project-type interventions accounted for 65% of country programmable aid, while budget support accounted for 21%. Thirty-one per cent of bilateral ODA was categorised as “other and unallocated”.

In 2016, USD 2 billion of bilateral ODA was channelled to and through civil society organisations (CSOs), corresponding to 11% of bilateral ODA, remaining stable from 11.6% in 2015.
Bilateral ODA focused primarily on Eastern Europe and sub-Saharan Africa. In 2016, USD 5.5 billion was allocated to Eastern Europe and USD 4.5 billion to sub-Saharan Africa.

In 2016, 38.7% of bilateral ODA went to the top 10 recipients. The European Union has specific agreements and instruments with 79 African, Caribbean and Pacific countries and 16 of its eastern and southern neighbour countries. In 2016, its support to fragile contexts reached USD 6.2 billion (33% of gross bilateral ODA). Support to fragile contexts consisted mainly of project-type interventions (76%) and contributions to pooled funds (9%).

In 2016, 23.1% of bilateral ODA was allocated to least developed countries (LDCs), which amounted to USD 4.3 billion. The share increased from 22.4% in 2015. Upper middle-income countries still received the highest share of bilateral ODA in 2016 (34.7%). This is partly due to the instrument for pre-accession with nine European countries.
In 2016, 29.6% of bilateral ODA was allocated to social infrastructure and services (USD 6.9 billion), with a strong focus on government and civil society (USD 3.6 billion). Twenty-seven per cent was allocated to economic infrastructure and services, with a focus on energy generation and supply (USD 2.6 billion), and transport and storage (USD 2.1 billion). USD 2.5 billion was allocated to humanitarian aid. In 2016, the EU institutions committed USD 7.7 million (0.04% of bilateral allocable aid) to the mobilisation of domestic resources in developing countries. The EU also committed USD 8.6 billion (39.6% of bilateral allocable aid) to promote aid for trade and to improve developing countries’ trade performance and integration into the world economy.

USD 9.8 billion of bilateral ODA supported gender equality. In 2016, 44.9% of the EU’s bilateral allocable aid had gender equality and women’s empowerment as a principal or significant objective, compared to 52.7% in 2015. A high share of the EU’s aid to population and reproductive health, health, and production focuses on gender.

USD 6.6 billion of bilateral ODA supported the environment in 2016. This represented 30.5% of bilateral allocable aid (up from 20.8% in 2015). In 2016, 27% (USD 5.9 billion) of the EU’s bilateral allocable aid focused particularly on climate change.