

COORDINATION MEETING IN NAIROBI **- MINUTE -**

The Coordination Meeting of the second year took place in the Silver Spring Hotel in Nairobi on the 29th of November 2010.

The participants have been:

- Mary Mbithi, University of Nairobi
- Seth Osmondi, University of Nairobi
- Miriam Omolo, University of Nairobi
- Girma Estiphanos, Addis Ababa University
- Jean-Baptiste Ntagoma, Catholic University of Bukavu
- Caiphaz Chekwoti, Trapca
- Gianni Vaggi, University of Pavia
- Laura Danieli, University of Pavia
- Kathleen Van Hove, ECDPM
- Sheila Kiratu, SAIIA

We opened the meeting on Sunday the 28th in the evening with a social opening dinner.

◆ PROJECT MANAGEMENT ◆

PRESENTATIONS AND DECISIONS ON NEXT STEPS

The first session of the meeting on Monday started at 8:45.

Mary Mbithi, Academic Representant of the University of Nairobi for the EDULINK Project, welcomed the presents in Nairobi and introduced the presentations.

Laura Danieli, EDULINK Project Coordinator, first introduced herself to the participants, since she just took over (Sept.2010) from the previous Project Coordinator, Alissa Evans.

Then, she presented a report on the “Joint EDULINK and S&T Stakeholder Conference” which took place in Bruxellkes on the 25th, 26th and 27th of October.

The purpose of the Joint Conference was “Promoting the Knowledge Triangle in ACP countries (Education, Research and Innovation)” and to encourage networking and linkages between the participating HEIs and to assess the implementation and affect of the EDULINK and S&T projects on MDGs achievement.

There were 187 Registered Participants: representatives of about 100 EDULINK and S&T projects representatives of the European Commission and affiliated agencies and representatives of HEIs not involved but with interests in EDULINK.

A new call for EDULINK projects proposals is expected in December 2010. News will be available at the EDULINK website and Laura will take care of informing all the partners.

Then, Laura presented a report on the progress of the EDULINK Project activities and pointed out the important decisions to be taken for the last year. (the Power Point Presentation will be sent to all the partners).

TRAINEESHIPS

At the moment, just a traineeship took place in 2010 in ECDPM. We have still to realize 5 more. The Associates, ECDPM and SAIIA, reported that the cvs sent by the partners at the first call were not appropriate to the kind of activities expected to be realized during the traineeships. Most of them were too senior candidates, with already some years of experience in teaching and researching, while the trainers would be involved more as “research assistants”, cooperating with ECDPM and SAIIA professionals in conducting the researches but also helping in the updating of the website and on other collateral activities.

A “senior” trainer could not be available to be involved in such “young profile activities” and could not accept to spend six months far away from his/her family.

So, a new poster has been sent in November to all the partners, but some of them sent again old cvs and again they have not been accepted.

An interesting cv has been sent by TRAPCA: it has been selected by SAIIA which already activated the procedures to start the traineeship. Maybe he will also be available to do a second train. in ECDPM after concluding the one in SAIIA.

Kathleen Van Hove, representant for ECDPM, has taken the opportunity of the meeting to meet a recently graduate of the UON who applied for the train. to evaluate him.

In this way, if all the possibilities above become concrete, we would be able to implement three more trainings in 2011.

Then, a proposal has been to admit one or two “senior” candidates (one in ECDPM and, possibly one in SAIIA), reducing the time of the train. to three months, and involving these trainers in the realisation of the policy briefs, activity foreseen for the EDULINK Project in the last period of the last year. In this way, we would be able to realize all the six trains. of the project and to give a higher attention and involvement in the production of these policy briefs, really important for the achievement of the objective of the project.

We will wait for some more cvs, especially from UCB and AAU, that did not send anything yet.

TRAPCA TRAINING

Because of the delay in receiving the funds from the EC and of the change in the management of the project, we have not been able to realize this training in 2010 as foreseen in the project and so we postponed it in 2011, possibly end of February/ beginning of March 2011.

Caiphos Chekwoti from TRAPCA reported that there are two main challenges: 1) the selection of the facilitators; 2) the commitment by the partners.

The logistics will not be a problem, since TRAPCA is used to this kind of training with the participation of host trainees and they have all the facilities.

The topic of the training has to be chosen with coherence to the profile of the participants, who are not young students, but experienced professors.

Caiphos would prefer to have a training structured as a kind of seminar, with all the participants involved in the sessions and not as front lectures of one to all. The first part would be more focused on the definition of the problems and the second part would be more analytical.

All the partners conveyed that they would prefer the training to be concentrated in one week.

Two participants from each partner will be expected.

A suggestion on the topic has been: “Political Economy in Trade”.

The first and most urgent thing now will be to receive by Caiphos Chekwoti a proposal of program and of possible trainers to the EDULINK Partners. Then, according to this, precise dates and all logistic and administrative details can be jointly defined.

RESEARCH VISITORSHIPS

The addendum request presented to the EC some months ago has been approved, so now we will have to carry out 2 long and 6 short research visitorships as indicated in this table:

	Research title	Researchers	Partner	Flights	Schedule
1	China's threat to African industry: A comparative study of the clothing and footwear industries in Ethiopia, Kenya and Mauritius	Vinaye Ancharaz	UOM	From: Mauritius To: Ethiopia	jan-11
		Alemayehu Geda	AAU		
2	Socio-economic impact of the flower industry in Kenya	Joy Kiiru	UON	From: Italy To: Kenya (3-month Research Visitorship)	feb-11
		Luca Mantovan	UPV		
		Ruerd Ruben	RU		
3	Financial constraints as a barrier to exporting: evidence from Mauritius	Vinaye Ancharaz	UOM	From: Italy To: Mauritius	apr-11
		Harshana Kasseeah	UOM		
		Alberto Botta	UPV		
4	Assessment of trade in services in the ESA region and the impact of liberalization	Caiphaz Chekwoti	TRAPCA	From: Kenya To: Tanzania	may-11
		Mary Mbithi	UON		
5	The impact of trade liberalization on household welfare in Kenya	Miriam Omolo	UON	From: Kenya To: Italy	mar-11
		Marco Missaglia	UPV		
6	The role of microfinance in inter-regional trade: case of the Great Lakes region	Janvier Kilosho Buraye	UCB	From: Italy To: DR Congo	apr-11
		Gianni Vaggi	UPV		
7	Impact of the informal sector on regional trade	Baboo Nowbutsing	UOM	From: Kenya To: Mauritius (3-month Research Visitorship)	feb-11
		Seth Gor	UON		
8	Cross border trade in East Africa and Great Lakes region	Mulugeta Belayhun	AAU	From: DR Congo To: Ethiopia	feb-11
		Jean-Baptiste Ntagoma	UCB		

All the visits have to be realized before June 2010 since also all the researches need to be concluded on the first semester of next year and the papers have to be presented in Addis Ababa during the Final Stakeholder Conference, which could be planned for September/October 2010.

Almost all of them should to be confirmed, even if for two of them some difficulties could occur.

Laura will send an email to each group check the availability and the details of these visits and will update all the partners.

WEBSITE

Many partners still do not frequently use the SN2 website and still did not replied to the ECDPM request of a Website Assistant.

A new email will be sent¹ to all the partners to invite them to enter the website and update the information.

COURSE MATERIAL PACKET

The course material packet will be realized in the last year starting from all the material used during the trainings, the visiting lectures and the researches and available on the SN2 website.

¹ It has been already sent on the 1st of December.

For this reason, it will be really important to upload on the site all the material and that all the authors give their right to use them. Starting from these materials, coming from different uses, it will be very important to give them coherence and unity and so someone will have to work on it. ECDPM proposed to ask to one of its research trainer to work on it.

STAKEHOLDER CONFERENCE

During the EDULINK and S&T Joint Conference, Prof. Vaggi and Laura Danieli of the University of Pavia met some colleagues of NETRIS, a network that is implementing another EDULINK project involving some of the same partners of the TDNet (ECDPM and AAU). Both the networks fixed their Stakeholder Final Conferences in Addis in 2011 so it could be interesting to have them even in the same period and to organize something together. This would guarantee also a higher presence of stakeholders. A possible period that could fit for both the networks could be September or October 2010.

A common topic for the conference should be defined by the two partners. We should choose something related to trade, regional integration, development.

In the conference, the results of the researches have to be presented. This means that the papers should be ready at the end of June so that to have at least 2 months of time for the review.

All the partners agreed on the 23rd of June as deadline for the conclusion and presentation of the papers. In the same date, we will have a Teleconference to update on the progress of the research and to take some final decisions on the conference in Addis.

In the meantime, Prof. Vaggi and Laura Danieli will visit NETRIS in Bruges to share ideas and to start organising the conference.

POLICY BRIEFS

ECDPM and SAIIA will support the academic researches in producing policy briefs from their papers.

Kathleen will send in the next weeks (possibly before Christmas' holiday) a template of policy briefs so that everyone can be aware of what will be needed for them.

◇ TDNet RESEARCH COLLABORATIONS ◇ ADVANCE OF THE RESEARCHES²

1) China's threat to African industry: A comparative study of the clothing and footwear industries in Ethiopia, Kenya and Mauritius (V.Ancharaz, UOM and A.Geda, AAU): we do not have any news on this research neither on the visitorships. We will need an urgent update and some details on the visit to be realized. Prof. Vaggi will contact Prof. Vinaye in the next days and will report to the partners.

2) Socio-economic impact of the flower industry in Kenya (J.Kiiru, UON, L.Mantovan, UPV, R.Ruben, RU): Joy Kiru of the UON sent a presentation. It is still a research proposal. Some comments and suggestions have been made by the partners that Seth Osmondi will report to the research group. As regards the visit, Luca Mantovan should have a long visit in Nairobi at the beginning of 2011. Laura Danieli will contact him as soon as she will be back to Pavia to start organising the visit.

3) Financial constraints as a barrier to exporting: evidence from Mauritius (V.Ancharaz, UOM, H.Kasseeah, UOM, A.Botta, UPV): the material available is still the research proposal of the

² Direct feedbacks on the researches will be sent to each researcher by another partner. Here we just report some information on the general progress and on possibilities of exchanges and visitorships.

beginning. Prof. Vaggi will report some feedbacks to Prof. Vinaye and to Alberto Botta and will check the progress of the research and how to reorganise the visit³.

4) *Assessment of trade in services in the ESA region and the impact of liberalization*, (C.Chekwti, TRAPCA, M.Mbithi, UON)- Caiphas and Mary presented their research and what they are planning for the next future. As regards the visitorship, they suggested to have Caiphas visiting Mary in Nairobi, since Mary will already be in Arusha for the TRAPCA Training.

5) *The impact of trade liberalization on household welfare in Kenya*, (M.Omolo, UON, M.Missaglia, UPV). Miriam presented the advance of her research (thesis supervision by Prof. Missaglia) and the presents discussed the papers and gave her some feedbacks and suggestions.

6) *The role of microfinance in inter-regional trade: case of the Great Lakes region*, (J.Kilosho Buraye, UCB, G.Vaggi, UPV). Janvier should have collected some data and advanced with the survey, but he did not send update; the visit will be organised in accordance to Janvier's availability in UCB.

7) *Impact of the informal sector on regional trade*, (B.Nowbutsing, UOM, S.Gor, UON). Seth reported to the presents that he had some problems in contacting Baboo and exchanging information with him, but he will visit him in the next months and they will progress with the research.

8) *Cross border trade in East Africa and Great Lakes region*, (M.Belayhun, AAU, J.B.Ntagoma, UCB). Jean Baptiste presented data and results of the survey he made in the region. He will try to go to Addis Ababa in the next few months to exchange info and data with Mulugeta.

◆ **ADMINISTRATION AND REPORTING** ◆

Laura Danieli reported to the partners some details on reporting and administrative procedures ("Reporting Key Note" of the EC) and the requirements of the Audit of the EDULINK Project. The guidelines will be sent to all the partners for acknowledgement.

³ A.Botta was supposed to visit Mauritius to have a period of joint research with Vinaye Ancharaz, who moved to Tunis.