



To Educate on Sustainable Human Development

## GLOSSARY OF TERMS\_

How to reinforce local public involvement with the promotion of local sustainable human development processes through decentralized policies and Development Education and Awareness Raising DEAR activities.





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### Objective and context

The aim of DEAR STUDENT project is the empowerment of Local Authorities (hereinafter LAs) so that they can be more aware of the importance of the role they can and must play in sustainable human development processes and in the achievement of their citizens' active engagement through the encouragement of the implementation of Development Education and Raising Awareness (hereinafter DEAR) approach both in formal education and in public policies.

Indeed, the main approach of the project relies on the conviction that LAs, due to their territorial proximity regarding its citizens' concerns, and their global commitment facing challenges for human development through their decentralized cooperation policy are key stakeholders in the promotion of local sustainable human development. That is why LAs can and must play a relevant role to promote an active and involved citizenship in relation to the fight against poverty, inequalities and social and economical exclusion, with the aim that people can support, encourage and persuade public administrations to implement more quality, efficacy, efficiency and continuity regarding decentralized cooperation policies that promote sustainable human development processes.

Consequently, if LAs can encourage, through DEAR activities, the involvement of citizenship regarding development concerns, they will undoubtedly benefit from a higher agreement and growing consensus of society on the importance of public commitment in favour of the development cooperation and will claim at the same time the increase of better public aid strengthening policy coherence with all social, environmental, institutional and economic initiatives and behaviour that also have an impact on the global interdependence.

In short, the project will empower LAs so that they can be more aware of the importance of their role in development process and in the achievement of their citizens' active engagement through the encouragement of the implementation of DEAR both in formal education and public policies.

Thus, the objective of the project is to support the role of LAs as catalysts for sustainable changes in their communities through the reinforcement of their capacity to promote development education activities and to encourage public policies more coherent with sustainable human development processes.





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Traditionally LAs did not play a relevant role in the implementation of DEAR activities for civil society about development processes while most the efforts up to now in this field have been done by associations and NGOs. In this sense, the project supports LAs regular structured and inclusive dialogue with multi-stakeholder partnership (Non State Actors, hereinafter NSA) in order to reinforce the commitment of LAs and Association of Local Authorities (hereinafter ALA) LA in the promotion of local sustainable development and their global commitment through their decentralized cooperation policy so that they can become key actors in the achievement of sustainable human development initiatives. The project will promote and improve the role and commitment of LAs and ALAs in the field of the sustainable human development and enhance the decentralised cooperation activities through the creation of synergies both between LAs and between LAs and NSAs.

LAs can play an important role in the global challenge of the fight to poverty, committing their own resources, with their local politics and through the tools of decentralized cooperation for development, articulating its actions in synergy with NSA and involving local stakeholders and citizens in this commitment to human development processes not only at local but also at global level. Moreover, we are convinced the European local governments, due to their territorial proximity regarding citizens' concern, are key catalyst actor for the promotion of active citizenship involved with the fight against poverty and social exclusion as well as for the enhancement of public policies that support an interconnected commitment with sustainable human development processes. It is therefore important to promote and enhance the awareness, the role, empowerment, commitment and ability of LAs towards the improvement of their public support for achieving the MDGs and the inclusion and implementation of concrete DEAR activities in their annual political agendas, in order to stimulate citizens' awareness and involvement on these issues.

In order LAs can be fully aware of their potential as active stakeholder in international cooperation we are mentioning below some key concepts in relation with decentralized cooperation and sustainable human development process with two premises:

1. The local authorities are the active actors of the international cooperation and the human development field.
2. The strengthening of the local powers and the promotion of the development is a priority of the international cooperation





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## Development

The interest for development concept grows out after the II World War. The appearance of new independent countries with the independence process stresses the need to study the more accurate politics to reach better wellbeing levels and to analyze the causes of economic growth as well as the differences between developed countries and developing countries. Since then, the debate on development has been a constant theme. However, the concept of development cannot be defined without taking into account a temporal context since the historical context and its main current philosophy always have a strong influence on the way development can be defined. Indeed, each society and each era possess their own formulation about what is development and that include convictions, expectations and possibilities that prevailed on those times. Then, the concept of development is linked with the idea of the future that can be reached for the, then, contemporary human collective.

On 50's the development became a pillar of the reconstruction of the international order as well as started to prevail the strategic point of view and interests of the developed countries over the view of the countries that need to develop themselves. During the last 50 years, the vision of development has suffering a constant evolution and fluctuations between the emphasize to consider growth as the main objective to reach development or to equally reach development and the satisfaction of the needs of people regarding if the vision belong to developed countries, and multilateral organizations, or developing countries.

But until the 90's the different positions, despite of their different points of view, were agree about what were the objectives of the development. The vision of development was based on the idea that modernization (understood as the highest industrialization levels and life standards reached by richest countries) represented the model to reach. Then, in some way, development lied in the challenge that poorer countries can get closer to the development patterns of the richer countries. This brought to the identification of the development with economic growth, thinking that once the economic growth will be reached then, "automatically", positive effects will be realized for poorest sectors through *trickle down process*. Since then the economy of development considered that the main objective was to increase the number of the production of services and goods and that development was like a lineal and increasing process that can be reach by all the countries unless some of then enter in the process later than others.

However, in the 90's, since the results of development foreseen by mainstream economic point of view cannot be effective and on the contrary in various countries an increase of poverty have been produced, then the recommendation of the exclusive predominance of economic development has been questioned to include strategy to equally reach economic and social development. That lead to the appearance of two "new" concept: human development and sustainable development.





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## Human Development

Human development is the process of enlarging people's choices. Their three essential choices are to lead a long and healthy life, to acquire knowledge and to have access to the resources needed for a decent standard of living.

The formulation of human development perspective or paradigm arises as the result of the critics made to a merely economist vision of the development. Indeed until the end of the 80's, the main viewpoint considered the economic development as the only objective to reach. However in the early 90's, the general context was clearly asking for a change in this perspective to counterbalance the so much economist vision of the development. In the contrary, human development affirms that economic development cannot be the fundamental objective but only constitutes one on the component of the development.

This change of paradigm can be illustrated in the fact that before the main question was "How can produce a Nation?" but under the human development vision the fundamental question is "How are living people of this nation?" The human development perspective questions the direct relation between the income increase and the enlargement of additional choices to foster human wellbeing. Analyzing quantity of economic development is just not enough. But the quality of the development process must be taken into account. It doesn't mean human development approach pay no attention to economic growth but on the contrary stresses that it is essential that this growth must be evaluated regarding what it can bring to people and how it can support human being so that they can fulfill oneself. In short, human development worries about to foster and reach a positive link between economic growth and the development of choices for people.

In this sense, human development represents a process and, as the same time, an objective. The human development has three essential pillars that must be equally considered:

- social development
- local economic development
- institutional development

It is aimed so that people can develop a lead a long and healthy life, to acquire knowledge and to have access to the resources needed for a decent standard of living as mentioned before and according to the definition of the 1<sup>st</sup> UNDP report on Human development.

But human development also goes deeper and enlarges spheres that can also be considered essential to enjoy decent standard of living like additional choices, highly valued by many people, range from political, economic and social freedom to opportunities for being creative and productive and enjoying personal self—respect and guaranteed human rights. In conclusion, human development can be regard as the development of people for and by people. (PNUD, 2000:17).





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The report of Human development published by United Nation Development Program (PNUD) has become a fundamental reference of the human development approach offering statistic data to analyze the development according to this perspective and including new and innovative concepts that enlarge and enrich the human development approach, and in this sense, progressively provide to the enhancement of news ideas to shape a more human global order (democratic governance, environment and energy, gender, public health, social cohesion, etc.).

UNPD's Human development reports: <http://hdr.undp.org/en/reports/> (available in English, Spanish and French)

## Sustainable development

Sustainable development refers to development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs (World Commission on Environment and Development, \_ Brundtland Commission 1987).

The term or concept sustainable development appears as the consequence of the worries about the excessive exploitation of the Earth's resources. The publication of the report "The Limits to Growth" (Meadows\_ 1972) implied a significant warning about the possible and undesirable consequences of the economic growth. The scenarios based on five variables (world population, industrialization, pollution, food production and resource depletion) clearly saw a "overshoot and collapse" of the global system by the mid to latter part of the 21st century, on the assumptions that exponential growth accurately described their patterns of increase, and that the ability of technology to increase the availability of resources grows only linearly.

This report provoked a breaking point because since then there was a quite general consensus on the significance of what development meant and implied: development was tied to economic growth and less developed countries will gradually reach the wellbeing and consumer levels of developed countries. However, the report clearly evidenced that this development model is no longer acceptable since it implies the destruction of natural resources and bans then the equate level between developed and developing countries. One basic point that set out the environment sustainability is the incompatibility with the current economic growth, the current natural resources consumption and the consequent CO2 emissions are already unsustainable and if Southern countries want to reach industrialized levels of Northern countries then the global ecological situation will be worst since more and more natural resources will be need (10 more).





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The critics to the report stressed that it doesn't take into account technological progress and innovation or new natural resources discovery but unless they exist they cannot solve the current and serious problem we are facing (climate change, greenhouse effect, water and air pollution, and massive destruction of natural resources). The assessment of unsustainable development brought a consensus on the need to decrease the half of the CO<sub>2</sub> and the use of natural resources. Indeed, considering the significance and scope of the ecological problems and its global dimension, some initiatives have been launched as the Club of Rome with Meadows reports (1972 y 1993), World Commission on Environment and Development (1984\_ Brundtland report), The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), also known as the Rio Summit, Rio Conference, and Earth Summit (1992) and reached some agreements and tools (agenda 21)

But in spite a numerous warning reports and the obvious and urgent need to moderate the exploitation of natural resources, especially in the Northern countries it is urgent to be understood and assimilated that an authentic sustainable development require using only the renewable resources that can be produced and minimize the use of non-renewable resources and generating exclusively biodegradable emissions, assuming the conservation of natural assets for future growth and development. The achievement of these objectives imply a deep change of habits and models

As a conclusion we can underline that the worry for environment concerns and the awareness of the limits of the growth have foster a new step forward sustainable development changing the conception of development. However, indispensable and deep changes in the economic and social models to achieve a more sustainable development haven't been responsibly take over and put in place.

## Development cooperation

The concept of development cooperation emerged in the mid 20th century and has been closely related with a certain understanding of the concept of development and with the strong international imbalances. The origin of development cooperation has been strongly influenced by two important factors: the Cold War and the Decolonization. Indeed, the ideological, military, political and economical confrontation between Western and Eastern blocks has determined the destination of the aid flows so that they were assigned according geostrategic criteria looking forward the establishment of under control and friendly influence zone. Moreover, the other feature is characterized by the emergence of new independent countries, coming from decolonization process, with weak economies to sustain basic infrastructures and resources, which were asking for financial and technical assistance. The strong interest of former colonial countries to reestablish sphere of influence in those countries as well the interest of the two power countries of the Cold War that were fighting for





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geopolitical influence have clearly accentuated the characteristic of the international cooperation.

The latest objectives of development cooperation are to eradicate poverty, unemployment and social exclusion and to search for sustainability and permanently increase levels of political, social, economic and cultural development in Southern countries. Unfortunately until the 90's the international cooperation aid has been characterized by the absence of a real collaboration between aid donors and receptor countries as well as different forms of conditionality of the aid, the scattering of projects instead of planning program of development, etc. That is why in the latest 90's, there is a consensus on the necessity to change the patterns of international development aid. Indeed, within the context of globalization, important changes have taken place in the patterns of trade growth. This growth has been visibly unequal around the world. According to data published by the UNDP (Human Development Index), the gaps between Northern and Southern countries have grown in recent decades, giving rise to great differences; the richest 20% receive 82.7% of total global income while the poorest 20% obtain only 1.4% of total global income. Moreover the concept of development has evolved enormously from a strictly economist concept to one more closely linked to people, giving rise to the concept of Local and Sustainable Human Development (LSHD).

The gradual acceptance of the human development approach has opened a new debate about the objectives of development cooperation. There is a change from the perspective that gave on the primacy of economic growth to the approach that gives advantage to the capabilities of people. These new introduced perspectives have boosted cooperation development so that it can encompass thematic as participation, equality between men and women, the fight against inequality between countries and within countries, political freedoms and human rights, global decentralization and good governance, that enlarge the horizon of issues where development cooperation can be useful in building a fairer international society.

When studying the different areas of action or international development cooperation, it is important to make a distinction between the different methods used to link aid to development. Depending on the specific objectives and methods used, different types of development cooperation may be identified. Based on the evolution of the concept of "International Development Cooperation", and taking into consideration the objective of aid in each case, different forms of development cooperation may be identified: development aid, humanitarian or emergency aid, and development education.

### **Development Aid:**

The concept of international development cooperation is automatically associated with the concept of "development aid", which is part of the foreign policy of governments in different countries. In cooperation terms, relations among countries incorporate a component that transcends the purely political-strategic and economic concept of cooperation to include spaces for solidarity, interdependence and the search for a network to promote the common







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international good. Development aid normally accounts for most development cooperation actions carried out in this sector or area by NGDOs and other cooperation actors, as well as public administrations. This aid is normally channeled through NGDOs and other entities, and to a lesser extent directly through twinning arrangements and cooperation agreements in the case of local governments.

### Humanitarian Aid

This cooperation mechanism consists of a diverse set of actions aimed at assisting victims of catastrophes (caused by acts of God or armed conflicts), alleviate their suffering, guarantee their survival, protect their fundamental rights, defend their dignity and, sometimes, stop the socio-economic disintegration of communities and prepare them in the event of natural disasters. This type of aid may be provided by either national or international actors. International aid is subsidiary to the responsibility of the sovereign state to assist its own population, and, in principle, is provided with its approval and whenever it requests, although in the 1990s facilities were provided to allow states to eschew these requirements in exceptional circumstances". The principles of humanitarian aid are: humanity, impartiality, neutrality, non-discrimination, independence, rights-based, respecting the law, protection, equality, equity, gender equality, quality, participation, precaution, accountability and universality.

## Education Development

Development education is an approach that considers education as a dynamic, interactive and participative process linked with an integral formation so that people can learn about global and development issues, that creates a better understanding of the cause of inequality in the world and above all gives some skills and values base to enable people to create their own voices and forms of engagement to secure real social change, recognizing the importance of linking people's lives throughout the world and understanding of the importance of critical thinking, the need to challenges stereotypes and to give people the skills and confidence to support change towards a more just and sustainable world. Development education needs to be a power house for ideas, creativity and new thinking about how people in society can be better equipped to create a world which is more just and equal.

It is important to stress that the contents of Development are not only referring to the interdependence between South\_ North but go deeper including also a more general and wider conception linked with values education, education for solidarity, intercultural education, education for tolerance, peace education, environmental education, human rights educations, etc. At the same time, development education is a dynamic process that is evolving with people with whom it interacts in different frameworks: formal, no formal and informal education. In the framework of formal education, education development uses to promote values and attitudes: justice\_ equity, tolerance, solidarity and cooperation. Regarding



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education development in no formal (leisure, free time) and informal (mostly media) frameworks, uses to be developed through awareness raising campaigns, researches, denunciations, politic lobby. But a crucial point and basic criteria is that, whatever the framework of action of education development, education development cannot just constitute isolated actions but must be built as a larger reflexive and training process and transforming action that require a medium term global strategy

Therefore, development education represents a medium and/or long term process that supports ongoing training that allows the connection between the contents of education development and individual knowledge, offers analytical criteria in order people can actively participate in the development of their environment and to understand the links between their local reality and the global development so that active citizenship can develop strategies to act in the promotion of fairer global interdependence.

### International cooperation: different stakeholders

The different **types of aid and actors** involved in international development cooperation are presented below, strictly according to their nature:

TYPES OF AID AND ACTORS		
Origin	Public	National, regional and local administrations in donor countries
	Private	Own resources of private individuals, companies and/or associations, etc.
Types of cooperation and actors involved	Multilateral	Agencies, institutions or autonomous government organisations
	Bilateral	Public Administrations and/or non-official Development Organisations
	Decentralised	Public Regional and Local Administrations
	Non-governmental	Non-Governmental Development Organisations (NGDOs)
	Business	Enterprises that provide technical support and technology transfer
Characteristics of funds	Reimbursable	Cooperation must be reimbursed in cash or in kind
	Non-reimbursable	Cooperation is non-reimbursable



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<b>Degree of Concessionalality</b>	<b>Tied Aid</b>	Recipients of such aid are obliged to acquire goods and services exclusively from the donor country
	<b>Untied Aid</b>	Recipients of such aid are not required to acquire goods and services exclusively from the donor country
<b>Nature of Cooperation</b>	<b>Financial</b>	Real transfer of funds to the recipient
	<b>Non-financial</b>	Transfer of knowledge, technology, materials, cultural and sports exchanges, etc.

Source: SPIECI, Government of Argentina.

Not all the public financing with development objectives means development cooperation that is why we need to know which is, according to OECD (Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development), included in the Official Development Assistance (ODA):

- (a) undertaken by the official sector;
- (b) with promotion of economic development and welfare as the main objective;
- (c) at concessional financial terms (it means that the financial transfer must improve the conditions under which this financial resources can be obtain on the financial market) and
- (d) the receptor country must be a developing country

The concept of international development cooperation is automatically associated with the concept of “development aid”, which is part of the foreign policy of governments in different countries. In cooperation terms, relations among countries incorporate a component that transcends the purely political-strategic and economic concept of cooperation to include spaces for solidarity, interdependence and the search for a network to promote the common international good. Development aid normally accounts for most development cooperation actions carried out in this sector or area by NGOs and other cooperation actors, as well as public administrations. This aid is normally channelled through NGOs and other entities, and to a lesser extent directly through twinning arrangements and cooperation agreements in the case of local governments.

Consideration must also be given to the growing importance of cooperation actions developed by other levels of administrative organisation, such as regional or local governments (municipalities, local city and town councils, etc.). This may be defined as decentralised cooperation which, despite sharing certain characteristics with cooperation developed by national governments, is normally less conditioned by political issues and focused more on institutional capacity building and local development aspects.





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## Decentralized Cooperation

The decentralized cooperation has emerged during the 90's as a reaction against the limits of the overly centralized and vertical approach and definition of the Official Development Assistance (ODA). Decentralized cooperation can be understood under two concepts but the two perspectives share a common concern about the involvement of new stakeholders in the development cooperation.

The emergence of decentralized cooperation is the answer to the new realities of societies. Decentralization and democratization are two processes that the major part of the countries is experimenting and that are fostering the appearance of new stakeholders in the developing countries in the behalf of civil society. It promotes a new power (syndicates, local communities, producer cooperatives, etc.) able to elaborate proposal for development and that have capacities to settle them. Various factors have boosted the growing protagonist of civil society and improved the establishment of new working frameworks between civil society and State: crisis of State, economic liberalisation, decentralized processes, the stronger influence of the participative approach in the definition of development cooperation, the promotion of the democratisation, the look for human rights as ways to build the capacity of civil society and to support the local level as a suitable scale to balance the globalisation process.

Then the larger definition of decentralized cooperation reflects the proposal of new forms of cooperation, while the more restrictive refers to the role local or regional donor can play in international development cooperation.

The first one underlines the decentralization of initiatives and relations with southern Countries including the appearance of a large type of stakeholder from civil society in the international development cooperation and underling in the same time the need to foster a greater participation of the stakeholders coming from developing countries so that they can be the protagonist of their own development. This vision is the one adopted by European Union whereas, in a restricted sense, the decentralized cooperation makes reference to the Official Development Assistance provided by sub state administrations (regional, provincial and/or local authorities).

The larger vision has been developed in the IV Lomé Convention and it reflects the new direction of the role of government, the protagonist and active role to be acquired by beneficiaries and local civil society in their development: a new approach to cooperation relations that seeks to establish direct relationships with local representative bodies and promote their own abilities to plan and carry out development initiatives with direct participation of the populations concerned, taking into consideration their interests and views on their own development.



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It is important to mention the double perspective that arises from the decentralized cooperation:

- a) On one hand, the existence of a new space for local stakeholders in developing societies, which have a greater role and responsibility in the implementation of their development
- b) On the other, a new approach of the role of cooperation stakeholders in donor countries that must wonder how can they modify their behaviour to strengthen and promote the role and capacities of the civil society and government of the developing countries.

The decentralized cooperation approach supports the non-governmental organizations (NGOs), decentralized public administrations, professional associations, rural and urban cooperatives, companies, trade unions, universities and in general, all the forces of the society so that they can participate the promotion of social and economic development of developing countries.

This decentralized cooperation vision is closely linked with the proposals to strengthen civil society and to give them a greater role to play in development. Although this perspective emphasises on the expansion of the stakeholder in development issues is also stresses the importance of the ways these agents are interconnected. Decentralized cooperation wants to establish new forms of interaction, which combine the public and private economic actors, political and social organizations in the North to the South for fairer development.

The decentralized cooperation is not a new instrument but promotes a different perspective, a new approach, complementary to the traditional ways of cooperation, which key words are: institutional pluralism, participative development and decentralization.

We consider it is important to understand what means the larger vision of decentralized cooperation since the restrictive vision share common point since it proposes the emergence of local government as a new stakeholder in cooperation issues giving an added value thanks to its particular know-how. The DEAR STUDENT project relies on the conviction that LAs can and must play a relevant role in international development cooperation and that due to their territorial proximity regarding its citizens' concerns, and their global commitment facing challenges for human development they must be key stakeholders in the promotion of local sustainable human development through decentralized cooperation policy. We are explaining why and how below:

### **International action of local governments\_ decentralized cooperation**

The international action of local governments lays on the capacity of local authorities to establish relationships with other entities at international level.





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The great social, economic, political and cultural changes that occurred with the globalization have generated a growing interdependence among countries and have foster the access into the international scene to a diversity of stakeholders, such as companies, NGOs, students and of course, local governments.

Historically local governments have been taken over and facing to a multitude of problems associated with the territory and the citizen people they represent. As the result of this territorial proximity and "know how", LAs have managed to position themselves as promoters and managers of public territorial policies to promote necessary changes and not only in their territory, but also in other remote territories, moved by their concern for understanding and responding to global issues that encourage them to connect with the international sphere.

The international actions of LAs arise from the recognition of new contexts, new concerns and new attitudes tackling locally problems whose origins and consequences have global features. Thus, issues such as international solidarity, construction and consolidation of international relations, the increase of the valorisation of the concept of the territory and its heritage or other political issues become a growing issue and challenge in the daily management concerns of local governments.

LAs have gradually made their incorporation to the international sphere thanks to four major factors:

- as an answer to the globalization trends,
- thanks to the political and administrative decentralization processes
- As an answer to internal policies trends that occurred in the territories and towns where such LAs are based
- the development of regionalism and regional integration processes

With the processes of political and administrative decentralization that have occurred in favour of local authorities, LAs have now to assume a lot of competences that have transferred to their structures government for their daily management, and on many occasions, they have been pushed too to take over the resolution or alleviation of other problems, that usually not belong to their competences but they had to solve to develop and implement their plans of government. This is why local knowledge and experience accumulated to date in the management of proximity services and in the promotion of the Local Human Development (social economy, social inclusion, local power, rural development, occupational training, heritage recovery, culture promotion, water treatment, housing, citizenship participation, constitution of local authorities networks, public-private partnerships, employment creation, etc) is extremely valuable know how they can transfer in international sphere especially through local decentralized cooperation policies.





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### What is LAs' decentralized cooperation policy?

Decentralized cooperation emerges from the criticism of the inefficiency and bureaucracy of the so far implementation of the classical cooperation and with the conviction that LAs is a suitable stakeholder to promote, since its peculiar know-how, international development cooperation. Indeed, decentralized cooperation also assumes as its own new paradigms of development: human development, participation, good governance, and the establishment of more equal relationships.

The decentralized cooperation, apart from the protagonist role given to LAs, also enjoys some characteristics and plus value that differentiate it from classical cooperation:

1. It fosters the participation of decentralized entities that can and must play an active role in the programming, promotion and management of development actions, as well as it also encourage the participation and coordination with other stakeholders as facilitators, partners or even responsible of the implementation of some of its actions (central government, NGOs, community associations, etc..).
2. The scope of decentralized cooperation action is the same than the competences of sub-national authorities. In this sense, decentralized cooperation fits not only with the issues and concerns of the central government, but also appears as complementary to traditional bilateral cooperation since LAs have more experience and is more suitable in a field (local-territorial) in which bilateral cooperation usually doesn't operate.
3. The decentralized cooperation goes beyond a mere transfer of financial resources since it also includes exchange of experience in the provision of public services, in the promotion of the institutional strengthening of local institutions, the local infrastructure, the local development, the territorial management, etc. Decentralized cooperation means in this case an active and leading role of territorial institutions in the promotion of international cooperation.
4. The stakeholders of decentralized cooperation, being territorial decentralized public entities are autonomous. Therefore, LAs have their own programs and budgets, and not depend of the central government for the establishment of such cooperation actions.
5. The autonomy of LAs that make cooperation allows decentralized cooperation policy can be carried out in a framework with fewer constraints, and more supportive and flexible and have fewer regulations and procedures than traditional cooperation.
6. The decentralized cooperation establishes more stable relationships among cooperating entities. The autonomous nature of decentralized bodies allows greater modulation of time rhythms and modalities of cooperation, making possible medium





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and long term cooperation, and can contribute more effectively in long-term processes related to local development.

7. The decentralized cooperation is based on the direct interest of each participant or partner, building horizontal symmetrical, reciprocal and relations as well as mutual interest.
8. It may involve the participation of a wide range of stakeholders, making more sustainable long relationship and incorporating non-economic objectives in this partnership, which strengthens international relations of peace and friendship among peoples.

Recent trends of decentralized cooperation policies put less emphasis on money transfer to prioritize instruments as assistance technical, technology transfer, exchange of experiences, training human resources (both technical staff and elected staff) and the institutional development. It focuses on technical cooperation which fosters the exchange of technical and management experiences in order to increase the institutions and individuals' capacities to promote their own development. It covers a wide range of activities such as counselling, scholarship programs, institutional support, support to design local policies, to plan training capacities, etc.

The main objectives of technical cooperation are:

- 1) To contribute to the creation of the basis for sustainable and endogenous development (promotion of the development of endogenous factors such as human capital and institutional framework)
- 2) To increase the effectiveness of foreign aid strengthening beneficiaries' institutional capacities to manage the international development cooperation, international stakeholder are implementing in their countries (in line with Paris Declaration and Accra Agenda)

Under this perspective, the institutional strengthening, the support to local public policies, the promotion of local development, the promotion of empowerment process of local society and stakeholders are axes and thematic that progressively prevail in decentralized cooperation processes and policies.

There are different types of decentralized cooperation policies used by LAs:

- Indirect cooperation is funding projects or activities presented by NGOs. Indirect cooperation currently represents the major modality used by public decentralized cooperation. In this case, LAs only finance NGO projects, without actually develop a real policy public cooperation.







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- Decentralized (development) cooperation policy has been considered as the expression of political will of local government to play an active role in international development cooperation.
- Direct cooperation is essentially characterized by the establishment of direct relationships between LAs from different countries. This central component gives the uniqueness and significance plus value of decentralized cooperation. It implies and encourages cooperation between 'counterparts'. In this sense it differs from other partnerships, established by other stakeholders (states, NGOs, other organizations civil society, etc..) and clearly diverges from a relationship between "donors" and "Beneficiaries" and passes to establish a kind of relationship where LAs recognize each other as active actors of cooperation.
- The municipal cooperation is emerging slowly today and goes beyond the paradigm of development aid and the fight against poverty adding to these motivations their willing to play active and protagonist role in LAs' international action and their interest in having a stronger presence in the world.

International cooperation between LAs is consolidating an international movement of cities and local government and promoting a progressive recognition of the territorial and local dimension in international relations and responses to global situations, providing new approaches, new knowledge, new experiences and exchange between governments of different continents.

That is why for its specific content, direct municipal cooperation support another form of cooperation focusing on local and territorial issues (public local policies, municipal services, urban planning, local economic development, housing, management of the territory, etc..) and fosters stable and sustainable working frameworks . The municipal decision to adopt decentralized cooperation policy is based on the conviction that LAs are the key and suitable stakeholder of local development in all its aspects and can perform its cooperation and partnership actions on the basis of this strategic role they play in their respective territories and can foster through exchange of experience in other territories. From this perspective decentralized development cooperation policy is a direct continuation of local development policies carried out in their own territory.

The change introduced with the type of relationship has an obvious impact on the cooperation process itself. When decentralized cooperation had as main objective the improvement of the living conditions of the 'beneficiary's populations, LAs frequently relied municipal project implementation to associations or NGOs that then acted as a substitute and answering to the lack of sustainable human development local policies. In the new perspective of direct decentralized cooperation policy to implement their cooperation, LAs don't rely on delegated project management and, on the contrary, define directly its contents. Direct cooperation





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reinforces the relations with Southern municipal governments, and looking for real and able partners, and not beneficiaries. This means, on one hand to establish a more balanced and suitable consultation with NGDOs based on the common definition of local cooperation strategy, and, on another hand to insert international cooperation as a transversal feature in all municipal policies.

This new perspective of municipal cooperation development is set around an egalitarian approach of relationships among peer institutions. Decentralized cooperation becomes a way so that LAs can interact in order to cultivate their respective experience to be better able to fully perform their function as public institutions to serve their citizens under the concept of internationalization of the local dimension. This notion is a growing phenomenon today and stresses a deep trend in the evolution of international relations and reflects the changes occurred in this field, as a result of both the decline of nation-states, especially in contexts of regional integration, such as Europe, the acceleration of the globalization of economic and new importance of the territory and development local level and promoting an protagonist role of LAs in international development cooperation.

