

Summary note

Sharing knowledge and transition experience for development: the view of New European Donors

This note offers summary observations from Technical workshop jointly organized by WBI, UNDP and European Commission in partnership with the Government of the Czech Republic (November 26-27, 2012, Prague, Czech Republic).

Background and rationale for the workshop

The technical workshop represents a region-specific follow-up to the Budapest technical workshop “Capacity Building of Emerging European Donors”, organized in June, 2012 jointly by EU, WBI and UNDP. The workshop focuses on the experiences, challenges, potential and needs of New European Donors as providers of knowledge and transition experience. The ultimate goal of the discussion was to agree on specific steps and cooperation options to ensure the knowledge and experience sharing is more effective, delivers sustainable impact for partner countries and produces the required visibility for the New European Donors.

The workshop’s agenda covered three inter-related themes: (i) what kind of transition experience can be shared; (ii) the mechanisms of engagement and cooperation with partner countries; (iii) the role of international partners to facilitate this process.

Participants

Government officials from EU12 member countries, Croatia and Turkey representing Ministries in charge of the international development cooperation agenda and sector ministries, ODA agencies, separate national NGOs and think-tanks involved in knowledge sharing exchange, selected representatives of recipient countries in the region, representatives from ‘best practice countries’ (Korea) in knowledge exchange.

Day 1: November 26th, 2012

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| 12:00 – 1:00 pm | Registration and welcome refreshment / lunch |
| 1:00 – 1:45 pm | <i>Welcome and Setting the Stage</i> |
| 1:00 – 1:20 pm | Opening Remarks/Welcome <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Mr. Tomáš Dub, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Czech Republic➤ Mr. Olivier Adam, Director, Bratislava Regional Center, UNDP➤ Ms. Sharon Zarb, Policy Officer, European Commission➤ Ms. Tatyana Leonova, Regional Coordinator, World Bank Institute |
| 1.20 – 1.30 pm | Introductions by participants
<i>The participants are expected briefly to introduce themselves by telling name and affiliation.</i> |
| 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm | <i>Session 1. CONTENT: Sharing Transition Experience as part of Knowledge Exchange</i>
<i>Moderator: Ms. Sharon Zarb, European Commission</i>
This session focuses on the themes that are most relevant for the providers of knowledge from New European Donors, constitute their fairly unique offering, and respond to the (capacity building) needs of partner countries. |
| 1.30 – 2.00 pm | Framing the discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ presentation of the results “<i>Mapping of east-east and triangular cooperation initiatives in Europe and CIS</i>” (commissioned by UNDP and done by independent consultants) – <i>Mr. Jan Marusinec and Mr. Cristian Ghinea</i>➤ presentation of the recent Communication on EU Support to Sustainable Change in Transition Societies– <i>Ms. Sharon Zarb, European Commission</i> Q&A, Open Floor Discussion |

Key reflections from participants on the presentation of the results “Mapping of East-East and triangular cooperation initiatives in Europe and CIS” and information on existing developments in home countries;

- The mapping exercise covered Eastern European countries but not the Baltic Countries, Cyprus and Malta.
- The focus of the knowledge exchange should be on existing experience gaps in the countries;
- Visegrad Fund was referred to as the first cooperation experience among some Eastern European states, in line with EU’s greater focus on coordination;
- Latvia noted that the Baltic States, though not covered by the first draft of the mapping, share similar problems as other new EU MS, e.g. lacking administrative capacity and low priority of ODA on agenda; and welcome the idea of more cooperation and coordination. Referred to EU’s joint programming pilot in Moldova.
- Romania noted that the new EU member states are realizing how important it was to cooperate, with all EU-12 countries carrying the “transition flag”. It’s started happening at the level of EU discussions, but not yet at the level of programs and projects.

Dmitri Mariassin (UNDP) noted that the draft version of Mapping report was presented and feedback/inputs from participants would be appreciated to finalize the mapping exercise.

2:00 – 3:30 pm

Highlights of transition experiences of New European Donors: what are the key themes?
The representatives of MFAs are expected to present in 5-7 minutes (no PowerPoint) the priority themes for knowledge and experience sharing in their countries, providing an example or two of a specific initiative:

- Ms. Zuzana Hlavickova, Czech Republic MFA
- Mr. Doina Doroftei, Romania MFA
- Ms. Natali Lulic Grozdanoski, Croatia MFA
- Ms. Kadi Metsandi, Estonia MFA
- Ms. Anda Grinberga, Latvia MFA
- Mr. Evaldas Galvanauskas, Lithuania MFA
- Mr. Jonathan Galea, Malta MFA
- Mr. Andrzej Skrzydlo, Poland MFA
- Ms. Marcela Hanusova, Slovakia MFA
- Ms. Burcu Mirac Diaror, MoD, Turkey
- Mr. Ádám Kirchknopf, Hungary MFA;

Q&A, Open Floor Discussion

An informal exchange of views and key messages from representatives of MFAs regarding priority themes for knowledge and experience sharing in their countries:

- **Czech Republic** stressed the importance of identifying a concrete definition of transition experience. Transition experience has two branches: economic (judiciary, privatization, environment reforms) and political (civil society, democratic reforms, etc) and can be both translated into bilateral and multilateral experience through the assistance of aid agencies and ministries and cooperation with several agencies respectively. (e.g. new trust fund with UNFPA, established with UNFPA regional center in Istanbul).
- **Romania** stated the focus of Romanian transition experience is on building networks among NGOs, provoking a healthy sense of competitiveness among them while the thematic priorities are concentrated around law enforcement and public order building (e.g. prison reform in Libya – using EU Development Cooperation Instrument funding, done by the Romanian Prison Agency with NGOs).
- **Croatia** accumulated national state building experience and Center of Excellence on democratic transition in conflict and post-conflict environment. The priority areas of Croatian transition sharing are concentrated around fundamental judicial rights, food security, trade relations. MFA of Croatia has established a Council on Transition Experience Sharing linked to the Croatian Chamber of Commerce thus ensuring synergy approach and private sector inclusion;

- **Estonia** mentioned its priority themes of human development, democratic institution building through the lens of ICT – e-governance, especially the example of supporting Moldova; support to economic growth (e.g. Georgia & vocational training system and business start-ups).
- **Latvia** named reforms of legal systems and judiciary; institutional and legislation support; security systems reforms (borders, customs); local government reforms and regional development; electoral process reform as priorities. There is strong Latvian expertise in food security through twinning instruments.
- **Lithuania** mentioned public administration, environment, social protection, democracy development, education, rules of law as major areas for experience exchange with east partner countries. The example of capacity building for local NGOs in Afghanistan led by a group of Lithuanian NGOs was mentioned. This focused on experience in how to apply for funding. The issue of how to report Transition Experience was raised.
- **Malta** mentioned that it has strong experience in electoral processes, especially sharing with Asian members of the Commonwealth. Maritime law was also mentioned as one of the area of experience sharing with partner countries. A small part of Maltese ODA goes to leverage private flows from church, NGOs and individuals (aqua-culture in Latin America). Malta Diplomatic Academy was mentioned as one of the areas of experience sharing. The issue of projects' evaluation and its cost was raised in view of the lack of Malta embassies on the ground in developing countries. Interest was expressed to cooperate with organizations on the ground in this area.
- **Poland**: mentioned democracy and human rights as two key themes for knowledge exchange. With regards to democracy most important aspects are relations between public and private players, support to ombudsman institutions and reform of public administration (e.g. Eastern Partnership Academy for Public Administration – open to all, Center of Local Governance in Moldova, focusing on different modalities of regional development).
- **Slovakia** spoke of cooperation with UNDP which was still on going with focus on transition experiences, especially for EP and Western Balkans. Slovakia's participation in Task Force Tunisia (part of *Community of Democracies* initiative aimed to help Tunisia with transition of democratic society) was also mentioned, with five thematic priorities: security sector, judiciary; public administration; regional development; civil society. Special mention was made of the Public Finance for Development – program with UNDP since 2009 – till 2014, focusing on Moldova, Montenegro, Ukraine and Serbia which was highlighted by the DAC Special Review as example of multi-annual approach and aid effectiveness. Slovakia also contributed to EBRD Multi-Annual Fund with the main goal to enhance participation of Slovak firms in projects implementation in central Asia, Eastern Europe.
- **Turkey** spoke of more active cooperation with Arab Spring countries through a network approach – involving NGOs, private sector, academia focusing on horizontal partnerships and demand-driven approach (e.g. Tunisia Development Program – the main topics are in reconstruction & democratization; economic modeling and employment policies; regional development and local administration). Support by Turkey is provided through technical cooperation programs, field visits, seminars, etc. Burcu also mentioned Development Research Center which is supporting technical cooperation and experts with practical knowledge in respective fields.
- **Hungary** noted that it does not have a clear strategy for transition knowledge sharing, but the discussion came very timely as in 2012 a new Hungarian development cooperation strategy is being drafted. 90% of Hungarian bi-lateral aid is targeted to Eastern Europe, Western Balkans and Afghanistan in two areas: i) strengthening civil society and institutional development programs (e.g. Customs – animal health and phyto-sanitary (seminar for Eastern Partnership countries in 2011); ii) water, sanitation and regional development.

During the open floor discussion participants raised the following issues:

- Extension of EU 12 to EU 27 in terms transition experience sharing;
- Monitoring of the impact of the transition experience sharing.

In concluding the panel discussion, the chair of the panel noted that the European Commission knows that experience-sharing on transition is relevant for all EU27 and not just for EU12. This particular event, however, was organized within the ambit of capacity-building for the EU12 and Croatia. The importance of utilizing existing networks/instruments, rather than create new ones was also mentioned. The knowledge of experts that have master-minded the transition process in Eastern Europe should be passed on/utilized now before they reach retirement age and disappear from public administrations. It was also briefly explained that Member States involved in joint programming needed to have a proper aid programming on a multiannual basis and not aid that was based on one-off micro projects.

3.30 – 3.45 pm

Coffee break

3:45 – 6:30 pm

Session 2. MECHANISMS: Knowledge packaging and institutionalization for effective development cooperation

Moderator: Ms. Tatyana Leonova, World Bank Institute

This session looks at best global, country and sector-specific experiences with knowledge hubs, centers of excellence, and other forms of knowledge sharing.

3:45 – 4. 45 pm

Panel Discussion 1: Global and Regional Experiences (15 min each panelist)

1. Towards Country-led Knowledge Hubs - report from the Global Conference in Bali - *Mr. Laurent Porte, WBI*
2. Experience of South Korea – *Mr. Kwangchul Gabriel Ji, Ministry of Strategy and Finance, South Korea*
3. EU-led Initiatives – *Ms. Sharon Zarb, European Commission*

Q&A, Open Floor Discussion

Key messages from the panelists covering global and regional experiences:

WBI

- Global professional club of knowledge providers should exist;
- Many of the EU-12 countries today de-facto host “knowledge hubs” (Czech Republic, Slovenia);
- All EU-12 countries, governments and NGOs are welcome to join the new global Community of Practice (e.g. focusing on Transition Experience Sharing);
- EU-12 besides participation in the Global Community of Practice (CoP) can also shape the CoP, on the “what” and on the “how” of knowledge sharing (e.g. unique experience of involving NGOs in ODA).

Ministry of Strategy and Finance, Republic of Korea

- Knowledge sharing is a way of enhancing development effectiveness based on mutual respect and ownership;
- Knowledge Sharing is an indispensable condition for economic growth and sustainable development;
- Knowledge Sharing Program (KSP) includes: i) bilateral consultation; ii) modularization; iii) joint consulting;
- Korean Development Institute - main knowledge hub – conducts research, organize consulting teams;
- Korea provided more than 440 policy consultations for 107 countries (cumulatively) up to 2012.

EU Instruments

- Capacity4dev.eu: Knowledge Sharing on Development includes 5900+ professionals: cross learning among practitioners and innovation exchange;
- European Transition Compendium (ETC) is created based on inputs from EU Member States and still is open to inputs from Croatia and Turkey, as well as partner countries;
- Twinning, TAIEX (technical assistance and information exchange)and SIGMA (Support for Improvement in Governance and Management);http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/index_en.htm
- Reflection is necessary on how to better utilize an already vast array of existing tools, rather than create new ones.

In concluding the panel discussion the chair noted that the knowledge sharing institutionalization and search for the most effective mechanisms of sharing experience and knowledge from reforms is gaining the momentum worldwide. There are examples of different approaches from various countries, and international institutions are getting more and more engaged in support to countries in setting up effective institutions for KE. In this situation it is extremely important for countries to learn from each other, and to tap on the best modalities and schemes. Countries are encouraged to join in the communities of practice and better leverage cooperation among themselves to find best ways for effective knowledge transfer.

4.45 – 6.30 pm

Panel Discussion 2: Country Experiences of New Donors in Europe.

Moderator: Mr. Daniel Hanspach, UNDP

The session looks at sharing knowledge and experience via Aid Agencies, Trust Funds, Centers of Excellence, at sector specific cooperation (programs run by line ministries).

The panelists are expected to make 5-7 minutes' presentations covering examples of knowledge and country experience sharing via national designated institutions and arrangements. .

Panelists:

- Mr. Krzysztof Stanowski, Solidarity Fund, Poland;
- Mr. Martin Náprstek, CDA, Czech Republic;
- Mr. Peter Tomášek, Slovak ODA Agency
- Ms. Jana Repansek, CEF, Slovenia;
- Mr. Vahur Made, School of Diplomacy, Estonia;
- Mr. Alexander Radonov, Balkan Agency for Sustainable Development
- Mr. Omer Ozdenoren, TIKa, Turkey
- Ms. Barbora Jungova, Ms. Zuzana Letkova, Czech and Slovak UNDP Trust Funds

Q&A, Open Floor Discussion

Key messages from country presentations and panel discussion:

The panelists made presentations covering major examples of knowledge and country experience sharing via national institutions reflecting specific aspects of sharing knowledge mechanisms:

- **Solidarity Fund (Poland)** is both an NGO and a governmental institution with € 3,25 mln annual budget. Geographic priorities of the Fund are around Eastern Partnership, Tajikistan, Kirgizstan, Tunisia, and Myanma. Areas of cooperation include: independent media, support for engaged citizens CSO and local initiatives, Scholarship Program, Solidarity Library, Solidarity / Transformation Corp / Mentorship initiative. The main approach of the Fund is to empower partners, but don't impose solutions;
- **Czech Development Agency** is an implementing agency with technical focus on identification of new development cooperation projects; project formulation, implementation and monitoring, enhancing capacities of Czech ODA stakeholders, including organising of professional trainings; Grants – cofinancing NGO projects. Private companies and NGOs are main implementing bodies of the Agency (37% and 34% correspondingly out of all contractors). Specific Czech Organizations of the State Administration are playing growing role in Sector Specific Cooperation through their „added value“ (expert knowledge, tradition, institutional background, cooperation with line ministries). The main approach of the Agency is to focus on partner-to-partner cooperation; in addition, the **Transition Promotion Unit of the Czech MFA** briefly introduced their activities focused on supporting transformation to democracy in particular countries;
- **Slovak ODA Agency** participates in knowledge exchange through: i) CETIR (Centre for Transfer of Experience from Integration and Reforms) - and Bilateral ODA projects of Technical Assistance (Western Balkans, Eastern Partnership, Southern Neighborhood). Main CETIR activities include- study visits and partner consultations in selected sectors and state institutions in order to prepare grounds for shared projects with Slovak entities that may be funded from EU programs with focus on legislation in the field of social work and labor law, waste management, information technologies and software programs in the judiciary and prosecution, the reform of state administration.
- **Slovenia Center of Excellence in Finance** operates based on quasi-governmental model and has status of non-profit foundation but currently is seeking to transform itself into a full-fledged international organization by 2014. The Center represents a mix of EU members including accession and pre-accession countries supervised by a board of Ministers of Finance and Central Bank governors of member countries, with Slovenia holding two seats. The Center is a channel of Slovenia ODA, 40% cash and 9% in-kind, but the rest of the funding comes from other sources (multilateral or bi-lateral; or via participation in projects; or in-kind from member countries, e.g. participation in trainings). The Center is open to partnerships and cooperation in kind based on already existing experience with Slovakia, Turkey;
- **Estonian Center of Eastern Partnership (ECEAP)** was launched on 1 January 2011 by the Estonian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in co-operation with the Estonian School of Diplomacy (ESD) to upgrade Estonia's commitment towards the Eastern Partnership partner countries. Activities of the Estonian Center of Eastern Partnership include launching the Panel on Public Administration Reform under the

1st Multilateral Platform of the Eastern Partnership; semi-annual PAR-seminars for officials from all EaP partner countries, tailor-made training courses/seminars upon the request(s) from the EaP partner countries, research and publications, scholarship programme for young EaP diplomats, civil servants and civil society representatives to participate in the post-graduate training course “International Relations and European Integration” of the Estonian School of Diplomacy;

- **Balkan Agency for Sustainable Development** focuses on the Balkans as well as Moldova and Ukraine covering such thematic areas as education and human rights. The activities (mainly training events) of the agency are funded by MFA and private sector and targeted for such Kosovo, Bosnia, and Macedonia.
- **Turkish International Cooperation and Development Agency (TIKA)** focuses on capacity-building assistance, dispatching experts, donating equipment, financing infrastructure & construction projects, extending humanitarian assistance. Two sample projects related to knowledge and experience exchange include i) Center of Excellence on Industrial Automation in cooperation with JICA (9 countries participating, from South and Central Asia); ii) International Police Training. Topics of trainings are determined based on the needs and interest from partner countries;
- **Czech and Slovak Trust Funds** operated by UNDP focus on activities demanded from country offices with the goal to systematically promote transition experience of Czech Republic and Slovakia. Czech TF: since 2000, \$6.4 million; Slovak TF: since 2003, \$13.85 million. The Trust funds concentrate on such areas as good governance, environment protection, HIV prevention, socio-economic development.

Summing up the panel discussion, the chair emphasized the richness of modalities being used by the new donors for sharing their transition experience, supporting sustainable development and promoting transformation to democracy. Some formats are nationally anchored in foreign policies of new donors while others tend to play more international role as regional/global centers of excellence in a particular professional area. Some donors rely on multilateral channels as a complementary mechanism to their bilateral ODA and avail of their programming and monitoring capacities while promoting national expertise. Particularly relevant is the experience of the ODA agencies established by two new donors, while Slovenian experience may be offering a very effective alternative to a more traditional set-up.

7:30 – 10:00 pm **Welcome Dinner at the restaurant Kopernik, hotel Pyramida, hosted by organizers**

Day 2: November 27th, 2012

9:00 – 12:45 pm **Session 3. INNOVATION: Prototyping the next generation of Knowledge and Transition Experience Sharing initiatives of the New European Donors (Small Groups work)**
Moderator: Dmitri Mariassin, UNDP

The session focuses on the knowledge and transition experience sharing initiatives from the perspective of partner countries and NGOs/Academia. The session also aims to consider innovations and prototypes of what could be a more effective system (at regional, national levels and in partner countries) of knowledge and experience sharing going forward. .

9:00 – 10:30 am **Setting the stage and inspiration**
The panelists are expected to make 5-7 minutes presentations covering partner countries perspective on the knowledge and transition experience sharing initiatives of the new European donors.

- Feedback from the partner countries representatives
 - Mr. Dumitru Alaiba, State Chancellery, Moldova
 - Mr. Frans Van der Straaten, Regional Partnership Coordinator

Key reflections from the panelists:

Dumitru Alaiba confirmed interest in the experience of new EU Member states referring to its relevance and importance for Moldova, in particular, such areas as e-government, visa liberalization, Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreement and EU accession more generally. He also noted that it became a standard procedure to build on experience of new EU MS in these and other areas, including through informal contacts. For Moldova it is not about aid as such, but very importantly about the valuable knowledge and experience. He further noted that there was no issue of ensuring aid coordination, and the respective functions were being performed by the State Chancellery

(acu.moldova.gov.md – a unified portal for aid coordination), however some implementation bottlenecks remained, e.g. in the delivery of the very large twinning programs pipeline, which the Moldovan government wish could happen faster and evaluated more rigorously.

Frans Van Der Straaten shared feedback from partner countries regarding Europe and Central Asia (ECA) – Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Knowledge Exchange. Among potentials areas of knowledge exchange MENA countries expressed demand for the following: public sector reforms, judiciary aspects, SME support, ICT use and applications, job creation schemes. Frans mentioned specific instruments which could be used for ECA-MENA exchange: study tours in ECA countries, ECA expert visits to MENA countries, joint ECA/MENA workshop.

The panelists are expected to make 5-7 minutes presentations highlighting NGOs and academia perspective on the knowledge and transition experience sharing initiatives of the new European donors.

- View from NGOs, and academia
 - Mr. Victor Alistar, TI, Romania;
 - Mr. Balazs Szent-Ivanyi, Corvinus University, Hungary;
 - Ms. Virginija Klimukiene, National NGO Development Cooperation Organizations Platform, Lithuania;
 - Ms, Tatyana Zilkova, PONTIS Foundation, Slovakia;
 - Mr. Andrew Cartwright, Centre for Policy Studies Central European University.

Key reflections from NGOs and Academia:

Representatives from NGOs and Academia briefly covered their experience in knowledge sharing initiatives focusing on several issues crucial for efficient experience sharing:

- The projects should be with clear objectives and subject to transparency at all levels;
- The projects should be in line with civil society views and social perspective;
- The training of diplomats done by academia is more of theoretical nature and would benefit from practical aspects inclusion;
- The knowledge sharing channeling strategy should be in place;
- Engagement in knowledge sharing among new and well established donors would benefit partner countries in the region and beyond;
- More opportunities for NGOs fieldwork should be provided (earning from experiences of well established donors through joint implementation).

As main takeaways from the session, the chair highlighted the following four:

- a) Crucial role of NGOs in ensuring transparency and accountability of aid flows from EU-12;
- b) Lack of capacity to participate in EU-funded grants and contracts by some NGOs in the EU12, despite available EU mechanisms to specifically promote the involvement of NGOs and academia from EU-12; The success story of the Czech NGOs was mentioned as a possible model to consider in this regard;
- c) Necessity to ensure NGOs from the region are able to work together in the field, in recipient countries, thus enhancing their effectiveness, impact and profile, as well as contributing to a more coordinated provision of assistance;
- d) The initiatives launched by the V-4 Fund could provide a good foundation for coordination and joint work of NGOs from the V-4 countries, and could be used as a region-wide model in the future.

10:30 am – 12:00 pm

Small Group work: prototyping effective forms of knowledge sharing

In this breakout-session small groups will be tasked to come up with a prototype of what could be a more effective system (at regional, national levels and in partner countries) of knowledge and experience sharing going forward. Each group will comprise of representatives from government, academia, partner countries and at least one 'best practice country' and one partner organization (Coffee will be available during the small groups work)

Group 1: Useful regional platform: how to integrate country efforts?

Group 2: Optimal national institutional structure for knowledge sharing

Group 3: Mechanisms to improve impact in a specific sector / theme

12:00 – 12:45 pm

Presentations from the groups to the plenary

Key reflections from groups

Group 1: Useful regional platform: how to integrate country efforts?

The participants agreed on existing lack of cooperation and overlapping development projects thus need for multilateral platform (e.g. Centre of Excellence; Cooperative forum coordinated by UNDP, EC) was identified. However, the participants came to the conclusion that as a starting point **existing structures and instruments should be used** to align cooperation. Based on such existing structures and networks as Euro-regions, LEDA program V-4 Fund, the Human Rights and Democracy Network, etc. more sector-specific coordination may be necessary. Another role a regional platform could play is support to capacity and implementation, especially in recipient countries. Finally, any regional platform would need to see not only a possible pooling of funds from EU-12, but also leverage the EU funding, as feasible. The participants also mentioned legal constraints and need to increase capacity of national development institutions. Overall role of policy makers in promotion of regional knowledge hubs/platforms, data bases was confirmed, with political buy-in and support is a pre-requisite for any regional initiatives.

Group 2: Optimal national institutional structure for knowledge sharing

The participants came to the conclusion that a separate national agency or ministry should be in charge of knowledge sharing with MFA having the overall coordination role. The programming of development cooperation including knowledge sharing activities would differ from country to country depending on the development budget, objectives and capacities.

Group 3: Mechanisms to improve impact in a specific sector / theme

The participants concentrated discussion among existing sectors of their knowledge and experience exchange: democracy promotion, waste management, demining, humanitarian aid, judiciary and human rights, etc. The participants came to the conclusion that the number of sectors for potential knowledge exchange should not be limited, but rather shaped based on the requests from the partner countries. The participants identified the following mechanisms to improve impact in specific sectors: study visits, twinning arrangements; private sector involvement in development projects, M&E, ICT, trilateral cooperation, supporting the academia/civil society to create and develop their own networks for development assistance. The participants agreed that international organizations could play important role in overall improvement of impact in specific sectors by coordination of the recipients' needs and donors' offers at the regional and global levels as well as providing quality control, M&E of the projects in the field.

1:00 – 2:00 pm

Lunch

2:00 – 3:45 pm

Session 4. Way Forward: options for cooperation

Moderator: Ms. Tatyana Leonova, WBI

This session looks at ways to improve cooperation among countries, and with International Partners, possible pilot solutions, scope for regional support structures. It will focus on needs and ways of practical knowledge exchange among New European Donors, and at the support EU, WBI, UNDP and other partners can offer to ensure effectiveness of development assistance (including coordination, harmonization, savings of resources, avoiding duplication, learning platforms and instruments, institutional set-ups, building capacity of donors themselves etc.), and sustainability (how can sustainability of development results from knowledge sharing be achieved by their context-specific integration into longer-term development programs).

2:00 – 2:15 pm

Reflections from International Partners (focusing on key elements from the discussion of earlier sessions and on tools being offered by EU, WBI and UNDP) - *Mr. Dmitri Mariassin, UNDP*

Key messages from International Partners

Dmitri Mariassin shared observations from the workshop as well as briefly covered approach of cooperation with emerging European donors jointly perceived by European Commission, WBI and UNDP. The concrete tools suggested by International Partners could potentially concentrate on several levels:

- **Global Community of Practice** (Contribute to global knowledge exchanges, Tap into a network of knowledge hubs);
- **Regional networking** (Incremental & bottom-up approach, Build on existing networks & mechanisms, Peer-to-peer learning & ICT tools, Help raise the profile of “transition” in development cooperation?, Pilot testing joint initiatives?, Coordination in partner countries?, Supporting consortia of NGOs?);
- **National Capacity Support** (E-curriculum, Trainings on key topics, Tailored support).

Dmitri also shared tentative plans for joint events in 2013 which would include: European Commission – WBI – UNDP consultations on joint program of work (January, 2013), Workshop to take stock of existing development learning curriculum on international development cooperation (March, 2013), Cross-regional Knowledge Sharing Event Eastern Europe – Middle East and North Africa (June, 2013) etc.

2:15 – 3:30 pm **Tour de table: reactions, feedback and discussion of Next Steps and Joint Deliverables**

Participants' feedback:

The participants expressed overall appreciation of the workshop and thanked organizers for again bringing to one table governmental officials, implementing agencies, academia, NGOs and international community. The event was considered very useful as allowed to capture a big picture of what was happening in the area of knowledge and transition experience exchange delivered by EU Member states. The participants estimated the workshop as very useful teambuilding exercise as well as confirmed the need for its follow up.

3:30 – 3:45 pm **Wrap-up and Closing**

Key conclusions and way forward:

- The need to synergize efforts and cooperate for better impact;
- The importance of raising the profile of Transition experience in EU Development Cooperation;
- International organizations may play a role of knowledge hubs and information sharing platforms. Moreover, transition experience should be mainstreamed into the agenda of international organizations.
- Transition experiences should be included into the broader discussion on the post-2015 MDGs development agenda,
- Definition of transition experience is required as well as overview of concrete models and multi-sector approach.
- The countries expressed interest in more specific regional thematic discussions and learning about failures of transition process from different countries.
- The participants noted the importance of getting feedback from partner countries on the efficiency of the delivered knowledge transfer;
- As feasible, a broader group of EU Member states should be involved in knowledge and experience exchange process;
- Private sector should be included in the discussion of knowledge and experience sharing initiatives;
- The issue of stronger visibility for the younger EU Member States came up. In relation to this, the idea for reflection was raised on how to further utilize the European Transition Compendium (ETC) to turn it into a de-facto 'regional knowledge hub';
- The Czech Republic suggested to concentrate funding in support of transfer of transition experience in some kind of "transition fund" - for example under UNDP Bratislava, which is active in the Eastern Neighborhood region where it makes sense to apply transition experience. The European Commission was asked to reflect about this possibility.
- The EU12 need to cooperate more between themselves on development cooperation issues. The Visegrad Platform can be utilized for stronger development cooperation amongst the V4 countries involved.

Way forward:

- European Commission, UNDP and WBI will continue to synergize cooperation with EU donors, especially EU12, Croatia and Turkey to ensure efficiency and impact;
- Based on the discussions during the Technical Workshop and WBI, UNDP and European Commission will meet in late January to discuss future cooperation initiatives that started off well in 2012 with the organization of two joint events (in Budapest and in Prague).
- All workshop materials and a summary note will be circulated among participants.