

Diaspora Academy

Press Release

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The African Diaspora Policy Centre (ADPC) in cooperation with the Hague Academy of Local Governance (THA), The Network University (TNU) and Cordaid, has launched a Diaspora Academy. The initiative is generously supported by the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The duration of the programme is from May 2014 to April 2017.

The overall objective of the Diaspora Academy (DA) is to upgrade and strengthen professional skills and competences of diaspora organizations in Europe engaged in the development of their countries of origin. The uniqueness of the programme is that it is initiated to address the knowledge and capacity building needs of the diaspora development practitioners and organisations in Europe active in the field of development. The activities of the Diaspora Academy will include capacity building training to diaspora organisations; evidence-based research; outreach activities; and facilitation of workshops. The target beneficiaries of this programme are the diaspora development actors Europe active or interested in areas of peace-building and post-conflict reconstruction; advocacy, lobby and alliances/networking building; and smart development partnerships between diaspora and sub-national development entities in homelands.

In addition, the Diaspora Academy will generate knowledge and information showcasing the successes achieved through the activities initiated by diaspora organisations in the three selected areas and the specific factors that have contributed to these positive outcomes for policy and practical lessons in the future. It will also undertake outreach activities geared toward raising the profile and visibility of diaspora development practitioners in the development community circles so that their critical voices, which are not sufficiently heard, are taken into account in migration and development policy debates taking place at the local, national, regional and international level. To summarise, the programme is expected to strengthen the effective participation of diaspora in the development of their countries of origin, increase their capacity to forge strategic development partnerships and to support acquiring capabilities of using advocacy and lobby instruments for a particular purpose.

The added value of this Diaspora Academy is that it is filling a gap in the field by making critical knowledge and up-to-date information available to diaspora development practitioners. This is urgent since up-scaling the skills and operational capacity of diaspora development practitioners will in turn increase the effectiveness and impact of development projects they are implementing on the ground on wider beneficiaries.

NB. The Diaspora Academy is supported by the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Municipality of The Hague.



Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the
Netherlands



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For more information about the Diaspora Academy , see the www.diaspora-centre.org.