

NEW: The Diaspora Academy Programme (2014-2017)

The African Diaspora Policy Centre (ADPC) is very pleased with the support from the **Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Cordaid** and **Gemeente Den Haag** to launch a *Diaspora Academy Programme* (DA). **ADPC** is the lead organisation of a consortium composed of the following partners: The Network University (**TNU**), The Hague Academy of Local Governance (**THA**) and **Cordaid**. The Diaspora Academy is a multi-year programme lasting from May 2014 to April 2017.

Objectives

The general objective of the *Diaspora Academy* is to upgrade and strengthen professional skills and competences of Diaspora organizations in Europe who are engaged in the development of their countries of origin. The programme is expected to increase Diaspora organizations' capacities to forge strategic development partnerships and to support the use of advocacy and lobby instruments for a particular purpose.

Background

The aim and content of this DA are unique within Europe, so far the DA is the only programme of its kind within that geographical area.

There is currently a great lack of access to appropriate and tailor-made information for Diaspora organizations, which limits their potential contribution to the development of their homeland on a effective and wider scale. This is a key challenge for the *Diaspora Academy*. Therefore, the DA is both innovative, timely and it has a wide policy-relevance in the field of migration and development.

Activities

The activities of the DA entail **Capacity Building Training** to Diaspora organizations; evidence-based **research, outreach** activities and the facilitation of **workshops**. The target beneficiaries of this programme are Diaspora development actors who are active in Europe or interested in areas of **peace-building**, post-conflict **reconstruction**, advocacy, **lobby** and alliances/**networking** building and smart **development partnerships** between Diaspora and sub-national development entities in homelands.

The Diaspora Academy will help a total of 90 Diaspora development practitioners from diverse European countries gain access to targeted knowledge and skills, relevant information, viable contacts and networks to professionalize their working methods and practical operations. The DA will also support these practitioners in gaining access to strategic partners in development projects and programmes.

Advocacy and Lobby for Policy Influence and Change

30 Diaspora organizations will be supported to acquire sufficient knowledge about methods and techniques of advocacy and lobby instruments and their effective application in influencing policy and practical changes conducive to a particular cause.

Conflict Transformation tools for Peace

The DA will facilitate **30** Diaspora peace-oriented organizations to acquire adequate conflict transformation techniques, skills and practical tools which will enable them and their local counterparts to operate more professionally and effectively in the peace-making activities in which they involve their respective countries of origin.

Technical Capacities for Partnerships and Cooperation

30 diaspora organisations will be supported to gain technical capabilities which enable them to forge smart development partnerships, alliances and strategic cooperation with sub-national development institutions such as NGOs, municipalities, local governments and the private sector to considerably up-scale the reach and impact of their development interventions.

In addition to these activities the *Diaspora Academy* will generate knowledge and information showcasing the successes achieved through activities initiated by Diaspora organizations in the three selected areas. The specific factors that have contributed to these positive outcomes for policy and practical lessons in the future will also be discussed. The DA will also undertake outreach activities geared toward raising the profile and visibility of Diaspora development practitioners in the development community circles. This is 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.