EXTERNAL ACTION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Bertrand Fort
Delegate for the External Action of Local Government
External action encompasses all international activities conducted by French local government bodies. Depending on the definition used, €700 million–€1 billion is dedicated to this action.

Within the Ministry’s DGM, the Delegation for the External Action of Local Government supports local governments in their activities:

- Promoting their territories;
- Enhancing attractiveness;
- Implementing international solidarity.

11,600 partnerships
135 countries
4,770 French local governments
8,300 foreign local governments
BUDGETS FOR EXTERNAL ACTION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

International total in budgets of local government bodies

- €1 billion – €700 million*
- €100-130 million*
- €8.5 million

Cumulative budgets of projects for decentralized cooperation between local governments

MAEDI/DGM/DAECT budget to support decentralized cooperation

External action of local government
All actions by French local government bodies of all natures (decentralized cooperation, territorial promotion, humanitarian assistance, participation in events, encounters, etc.)

Twinning programmes: form of ties between two local governments not necessarily involving cooperation activities

Decentralized cooperation: cooperation projects between two or more local governments, in an official framework (twinning programmes, friendship/cooperation pacts, conventions, etc.)

* Estimates
DECENTRALIZED COOPERATION PROJECTS WORLDWIDE

NUMBER OF DECENTRALIZED COOPERATION PROJECTS PER COUNTRY*

THE 10 COUNTRIES WITH THE MOST PROJECTS*

- 321 Germany
- 265 Mali
- 240 Burkina Faso
- 222 Senegal
- 211 Poland
- 172 United Kingdom
- 166 Madagascar
- 160 Morocco
- 145 Italy
- 135 Spain

* excluding twinnings
DECENTRALIZED COOPERATION IN FIGURES

THEMATIC DISTRIBUTION OF DECENTRALIZED COOPERATION PROJECTS

- CULTURE & HERITAGE
- SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY
- EDUCATION, SOCIAL & RESEARCH
- ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE, ENERGY
- POLITICAL, HUMANITARIAN & CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION
NATIONAL COMMISSION ON DECENTRALIZED COOPERATION

National institution for dialogue between State and local government

Chaired by the Prime Minister
or the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Development

12 Ministries, 6 MAEDI operators, 8 associations of French local government bodies

Stocktake
of decentralized cooperation and ODA of French local governments

Atlas of decentralized cooperation
www.cncd.fr

Improving
implementation of external action of local governments

Producing proposals, workshops and legal advice

Economic Committee
of the CNCD

Dialogue between State, local governments and businesses to promote attractiveness of territories and exports by SMEs in the framework of decentralized cooperation
DELEGATION FOR THE EXTERNAL ACTION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT (DEACT)


DIALOGUE: the DEACT acts as the National Commission on Decentralized Cooperation’s secretariat

PROMOTION of local governments’ expertise internationally: PACT 3 label

ASSISTANCE for French local governments (see next slide)
DAECT ASSISTS FRENCH LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

Calls for projects:
- triennial
- annual
- bilateral
- thematic

Development of partnerships and assistance for decentralized cooperation projects

Support for associations

Networking with diplomatic posts, diplomatic advisers to regional Prefects, operators, etc.

Legal advice
The government and Foreign Ministry (MAEDI) are fully aware of the contribution of French local governments to French outreach, attractiveness of territories and international solidarity.

The capacities and action resources of local governments need to be enhanced, including through stronger partnership with MAEDI.

The Paper studies the development of external action of local governments (legal framework, stocktake, strengths/weaknesses), highlights challenges, presents State and operator assistance tools and offers **21 concrete solutions** to improve State – local government partnership.

*Adopted unanimously* by National Commission on Decentralized Cooperation (CNCD) members on 23 November 2016.

- Development of **new services** offered to local governments
- Facilitation of **access to finance available** for the external action of local governments
- Development of a **new institutional partnership framework** to better connect local governments, MAEDI and international operators
### Structural Priorities for Supporting the External Action of Local Governments by DAECT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Geographical diversity and coherence</th>
<th>Monitoring &amp; evaluation</th>
<th>Economic action</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>➤ Better supporting projects in countries where France has least decentralized cooperation;</td>
<td>➤ Incorporating monitoring and evaluation from project outset;</td>
<td>➤ Encouraging participation of businesses (co-financing, offers of expertise, etc.) to support SME exports and foreign investments in France.</td>
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<tr>
<td>➤ Supporting pooled projects and/or those coordinated between local governments active in the same foreign territory;</td>
<td>➤ Better measuring social, economic and environmental impact of decentralized cooperation projects both abroad and in France.</td>
<td>➤ Stimulating touristic, academic and research attractiveness of French territories.</td>
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<td>➤ Coordinating decentralized cooperation and action of State and operators locally.</td>
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DIGITAL TOOLS AND DECENTRALIZED COOPERATION POLICY

**French Atlas of Decentralized Cooperation**
A portal for decentralized cooperation giving visibility and legibility to all decentralized cooperation activities.

**Digitization of administrative procedures: online procedures and declarations**
Since 2014, it has been possible to submit applications for co-financing for calls for projects, declarations of cooperation activities and declarations of official development assistance online.

**Project exchange (under renovation)**
Dedicated area for foreign local government bodies seeking partnerships with French local governments.
FRENCH ATLAS OF DECENTRALIZED COOPERATION


- Identifies local governments active internationally
- Surveys the nature of local governments’ projects
- Indicates French local governments active in a given country
- Offers contact details of persons responsible for international relations in local governments
- Produces national statistics guiding CNCD and MAEDI in support for decentralized cooperation

Extranet enabling French local governments to:

- Declare their official development assistance;
- Submit projects for MAEDI co-financing;
- Update their page to promote their external action.
ATLAS: MAPS

LES COOPÉRATIONS DÉCENTRALISÉES ET ACTIVES ENTRE LA FRANCE ET LE JAPON

COLLECTIVITÉS TERRITORIALES FRANÇAISES

- Villes
- Groupements

COOPÉRATIONS DÉCENTRALISÉES

- Zone d'intervention des collectivités françaises
- 2006: Année de lancement de la coopération

HOKKAIDO


- Coopération
- Éducation
- Économie
- Sécurité
- Santé
- Agriculture
- Énergie
- Transport
- Éco-santé
- Tourisme
- Infrastructures
- Environnement
- Santé publique
- Développement durable

COLLECTIVITÉS JAPONAISES

Économie
- Éducation
- Santé
- Énergie
- Sécurité
- Agriculture
- Transport
- Éco-santé
- Tourisme
- Infrastructures
- Environnement
- Santé publique
- Développement durable

Hokkaido

Kosaku

...
FOCUSSES OF DECENTRALIZED COOPERATION

- Official Development Assistance (ODA)
  - Economic action
  - Climate issues
- Youth and vocational training
  - Tourism
  - Digital sector
- Cross-border cooperation and European funding
  - Agriculture and food security
  - Sustainable development
  - Economic Francophonie
  - Heritage
OFFICIAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE (ODA) OF FRENCH LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

French local governments are legally required to declare their ODA every year, in accordance with Article L.1115-6 of the French General Local Authorities Code available at www.cncd.fr. This is a full-fledged aspect of the ODA France reports to the OECD every year.

In 2015, the ODA of French local governments totalled €59.6 million.

Why is the ODA of local governments important?

- It helps share ODA with many territories in partner countries. In 2015, 101 countries received ODA from French local governments;
- It helps combine ODA with other projects not eligible for ODA but that are complementary (e.g. cultural projects, youth exchanges, assistance and promotion of businesses);
- It helps acknowledge local and regional authorities as pivotal players in inclusive development.

5 major sectors of local government ODA

- Water and sanitation
- Agriculture
- Education and vocational training
- Population, health and fertility policy
- Governance and civil society
EXTERNAL ECONOMIC ACTION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

1. DECENTRALIZED COOPERATION PROJECTS AND TWINNING PROGRAMMES
   Enabling SMEs-SMIs to benefit from relations between French local governments and their partners;
   Promoting territories to encourage foreign investments and the development of tourism.

2. EXTENDED ACTION
   Representative offices;
   Prospecting missions, participation in international trade shows;
   Thematic bilateral agreements.

3. THE ECONOMIC COMMITTEE OF THE CNCD
   A "French team" for exports and attractiveness based around decentralized cooperation, which complements other competent institutions in these areas.
   Aims: identifying best practices; informing, raising awareness and fuelling strategic debates on decentralized cooperation.
Priorities:
- Sustainable development education
- Prevention of coastal hazards
- Urban planning

Urban transition: a low-carbon society, a major challenge for the 21st century

Aim: involving local governments in the Paris Agreement and new urban agenda

2 calls for climate projects in 2015 and 2016: more than €5 million of projects on all 5 continents

36 projects selected

Financial support from Foundation Schneider Electric

Types of activities
- Water and sanitation
- Waste management
- Sustainable agriculture
- Preservation of biodiversity
- Clean public transport
- Environmentally friendly urbanization
- Renewable energy

Participation in the “Coalition on decentralized cooperation and partnerships” resulting from the global Climate Chance summit
Young people in mobility projects abroad give impetus to decentralized cooperation projects. They learn skills that enhance their employability. Twinning of professional training establishments. Decentralized cooperation boosts the internationalization of young people. Multi-stakeholder projects (associations, schools and training colleges, businesses, etc.). 28 projects selected in the two “youth” calls for projects have already enabled 320 young people to take part in European and international mobility. An upcoming call for projects to maintain impetus: open from 15 January to 15 April 2017.
TOURISM IN DECENTRALIZED COOPERATION

xiety was the world’s top tourist destination in 2015, receiving 85 million foreign visitors. 2016 is unusual because of the impact of terrorist attacks.

Three meetings in 2016 of the Emergency Economic Committee on Tourism, chaired by MAEDI, with the result of €10 million in funding for a campaign to support France as a destination, aimed at 16 priority countries in close liaison with French Regions.

180 decentralized cooperation projects with 96 French local governments active and 50 partner countries (China, Argentina, Morocco, Senegal, Vietnam, Lebanon, etc.). The CNCD tourism group is working on new proposals.

Aims

- Better promoting and supporting the French tourism sector in the various projects
- Supporting sustainable tourism projects using the expertise of local governments in this area
- Contributing to the rise of language tourism in decentralized cooperation projects
DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY IN DECENTRALIZED COOPERATION

- Access to digital connectivity, services and data storage is very uneven worldwide. While the Digital Republic Act provides a response for France, the “Digital Technology & Development” Action Plan seeks to reduce the global digital divide and highlight French expertise internationally.

- **Events 2016-2017:** Africa Development and Digital Days; Economic Week of the Mediterranean; Open Government Summit; Digital segment of the Bamako Summit for Peace, Partnership and Emergence.

- **56 French local governments are implementing 77 projects with 71 partners.**

- The CNCD digital group is working on new proposals.

**Aims**

- Encouraging activities between local governments and partners on **use of digital technology** (local public services) addressing needs of populations and fostering development.

- **Introducing the digital dimension** in sectoral projects in other areas.

- Supporting the emergence of new digital-focused projects.

- Promoting **French solutions** in the various projects.
CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION AND EUROPEAN FUNDING

Decentralized cooperation in Europe: > 6,000 active partnerships

2 major challenges identified: youth (mobility, training) and sustainable urban development

Promotion of cross-border cooperation: benefits of regional economic cooperation, economic benefits, strengthens “Europe for Citizens”.

€450 million for local governments from the European Commission Civil Society Organisations and Local Authorities (CSO - LA) programme between 2014 and 2020.
AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY

Third-largest ODA sector for decentralized cooperation:
€6 million in 2015.

Promotion of innovative initiatives for local governments: local food systems, Milan Urban Food Policy Pact, 4 per 1000 initiative (storage of carbon in soils).

Added value: agricultural extension in cooperation projects

More than 400 cooperation partnerships

Agro-ecology: top priority in DAECT calls for climate projects and a major focus of triennial calls for projects.

International advocacy for the recognition of the role of local governments in food governance.
In September 2015, the UN General Assembly adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), a new global development framework.

Through the exchange of best practices and the implementation of projects involving local governments from both North and South, decentralized cooperation is an innovative, multi-stakeholder means of implementing the 17 SDGs at the most local level.

In the framework of its partnership with the UN Development Programme, DAECT encourages local governments to highlight their initiatives fostering the implementation of the SDGs using the global “Toolbox for localizing the sustainable development goals”:

http://www.localizingthesdgs.org/

1,063 “Sustainable economy” projects
94 Countries involved
402 French local governments involved
DECENTRALIZED COOPERATION FOR ECONOMIC FRANCOPHONIE

Aims:

1. Using the cultural vehicle of Francophonie as an economic facilitator

2. Structuring and running a Francophone business network beyond the Francophone space

3. Fostering youth mobility and business projects

4. Developing institutional partnerships between Francophone local governments supporting local economic development
Heritage is a major aspect of decentralized cooperation.

French local governments are known and highly sought-after for their expertise.

Addressing major challenges:

- Chaotic urbanization
- Pollution of air, water and soils
- Controlled tourism
- Inclusion, participation of local communities

58 French local governments are active on heritage projects

109 projects identified in the Atlas (www.cnscd.fr)

47 countries identified including India, Lebanon, Madagascar, Morocco, Tunisia and Vietnam
Thank you for listening

Mr Bertrand Fort
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development
Delegate for the External Action of Local Government
Secretary-General of the National Commission for Decentralized Cooperation (CNCD)

bertrand.fort@diplomatie.gouv.fr

www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/cncd