

## DAC Peer Reviews

The OECD's Development Assistance Committee is comprised of the world's major donors. The Committee's peer review process is to strengthen, and sharing good practice to improve future program design and delivery.

DAC peer reviews are an essential component of the work of the DAC. Through peer pressure and peer learning, peer reviews aim at improving development co-operation agencies' behavior and practice for better impact on poverty reduction and sustainable development.

Each DAC member is reviewed by two other countries every 5 years.

*Peer Reviews  
unlocking best practice*



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2012  
European Union  
DAC PEER REVIEW



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## EU Peer Review 2012

The European Union is a major player in global development, co-ordinating coherent actions amongst its 27 member states and providing direct support to developing countries. Total net ODA by all 27 EU member states was USD 73.6 billion in 2011 with grants by EU institutions totaled USD 12.6 billion.

The DAC's Review of the Development Co-Operation Policies and Programmes of the European Union notes that, since the last review 5 years ago, the EU has taken steps to make its aid more effective and give it more impact, improving co-ordination, and working more with civil society but that more progress is needed in a number of areas.

### HQ and Field Visits

The Peer Review of the European Union took place over a six month period, including visits to Chad and Peru, culminating on 28 March 2012. Japan and Norway acted as peer examiners, with supporting analysis provided by the OECD secretariat.

The process involved a one-week mission in Brussels (October) plus follow-up meetings in December. It also involved two one-week missions in Chad and Peru to look at how the development co-operation programme is delivered in two very different contexts (least developed, fragile country, versus middle income country).

These missions allow the team to consult with a wide range of partners (EU institutions in Brussels, Member States (CODEV, COHAFA), NGOs and research institutes, Parliament, governments from partner countries, other bilateral and multilateral donors, CSOs, etc). These discussions, along with complementary sources of documentation, inform the peer review findings and recommendations.

### Key Findings

The EU has taken steps to make its aid more effective and give it more impact. These steps included organisational restructuring, streamlining the financial process, improving co-ordination, and

working more with civil society.

However, the Review also notes that more progress is needed in a number of areas. It says the EU must: clarify the responsibilities of the EU institutions working on development. "This review reflects the complexity of the EU systems as well as the great potential for greater coordination among EU donors" said Brian Atwood, chair of the OECD's Development Assistance Committee. "Great progress has been made, but each and every EU member will need to yield a bit if the Union is to reach its full potential as a donor. Fortunately, there is now strong institutional leadership that is pushing the ball in the right direction."

The Review makes a number of recommendations to improve the effectiveness of EU aid and these can be found in the published report.

### More Information

For more information on the European Union's development policies and programmes please visit [www.oecd.org/dac/peerreviews/eu](http://www.oecd.org/dac/peerreviews/eu) or contact Chantal Verger, Senior Policy Analyst at [chantal.verger@oecd.org](mailto:chantal.verger@oecd.org)

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