

The “FTI/DoL” in Albania: a road map

- The “Fast Track Initiative on Division of Labour” (FTI/DoL) is aimed at promoting progressive implementation of EU “Code of Conduct on Division of Labour” among EU Donors (Member States + the European Commission) as a means for achieving more aid effectiveness. Albania is a pilot Country for FTI/DoL. Italy acts as “facilitator”.
- DoL implementation needs a two-way approach: on one side, deeper coordination among EU donors; on the other side, major commitment from the Government (ownership). It is important to avoid duplication of efforts and to rely upon donor coordination practices that are already in place. Non-EU donors might be associated to the process.
- As per FTI/DoL in Albania, the first step has been the filling up of a questionnaire on current status of play. This exercise has been carried out in close co-operation with local EC Delegation and Sweden, on the basis of a fruitful exchange of views with all EU donors.
- As a second step, local EC Delegation has invited EU and non-EU donors to provide their comments on the final draft version of IPA “Multi-annual Indicative Planning Documents” (MIPDs) 2009-2011. The aim was to start using MIPDs as a basis for future DoL, following recommendations of the “Conference on Donor Coordination in Western Balkans and Turkey” (Brussels, Oct. 2008).
- **Steps ahead**
 - DoL implementation requires a comprehensive EU-donors mapping, based on: aid flow mapping + strategy-based mapping + DoL mapping. EU Donors should actively co-operate with the Albanian

Government (i.e. Dept. for Strategy and Donor Coordination – DSDC) to this aim.

- DoL implementation needs to build upon (and reinforce) existing donor coordination activities. In Albania, Sector Working Groups (SWG) are to be used as main operational forum for enhanced DoL. In case capacity needs are identified (in Line Ministries and/or Governmental Agencies) for better functioning of SWG, EU Donors should consider devoting appropriate resources to this aim.
 - EU Donors should consolidate their networking on DoL issues. This also implies mainstreaming DoL issues in DIP (Development & Integration Partners) meetings and other donor coordination activities as well as enhancing feed-back from/to Member States HQs on DoL implementation.
 - EU Donors should expand the use of IPA programming as an “orientation tool” for DoL. This also implies increasing participation of EU Donors in early stages of negotiations related to annual IPA planning for Albania, when development priorities are identified related to prospective EU-integration.
- By the end of 2009, EU donors (+ interested non-EU donors) and the Government (DSDC) should be using DoL as a common operational framework for planning and managing EU external assistance.

Besides, EU DoL is expected to boost overall donor coordination and aid effectiveness in Albania.