

EIP Futures

Session V of the Annual Meeting 2020

At the annual meeting 2019, members set out a strategic and forward looking vision for the EIP with **two strategic objectives**: to act as a global knowledge hub on peer-to-peer learning approaches and to facilitate innovation and learning on alternative approaches to public sector reform and institutional development. In the period since the annual meeting, the EIP has deepened and enriched the knowledge base on effective methods of P2P working, and initiated an exchange on effective strategies to document and leverage results through monitoring, evaluation and learning from a diversity of P2P partnerships and approaches.

In 2020, with the onset of COVID19, the development landscape has markedly changed, and development actors are obliged to operate virtually through varying web-based platforms. This raises the question: how is COVID19 and our new 'virtual reality' impacting our ability to learn and diffuse knowledge? Are there effective ways development actors can partner to deliver positive institutional development outcomes?

Within EIP, the demand among members for EIP engagement is two-fold: first, for the EIP to maintain and sharpen its focus on **core government functions**: including, for example, in areas of public financial management and domestic resource mobilisation, public administration reform, public services delivery and local governance and anti-corruption; and second, to contribute to enhancing development results through the diffusion of P2P approaches, and learning across established multilateral development platforms, such as the African Tax Administration Forum (ATAF), and Domestic Resource Mobilisation Agendas. Opportunities also exist for the EIP to contribute to a refresh of the Development Effectiveness Narrative, due to be formally initiated by the OECD-DAC next year, and to the overhaul of the GPEDC monitoring framework.

The purpose of this session is to discuss the EIP's current operating environment and to consider how best to optimise the EIP's unique value in the 2021-2022 biennium.

The **objective of this session** is to consider the EIP's current operating environment and, based on the results of the EIP's activities in 2020, to consider how best to optimise the EIP's unique value in the 2021-2022 biennium. The outputs from this exchange will be considered by EIP Advisory Group members, the joint EIP Co-Chairs and the EIP Secretariat and serve to inform future updating of the EIP annual work plan.

Organisation of the Session

The session will be organised in three parts:

- a. Introduction (10 minutes)
 - i. EIP Secretariat: background and structure of the session

- ii. Ashley Palmer, Policy Analyst, OECD-DCD: summary of the OECD-DAC and GPEDC work to renew the development effectiveness narrative and monitoring structure.
- b. Facilitated breakout group discussions (30 minutes)
- c. Plenary reporting and discussion (40 minutes)

The break-out groups will be organised by theme, in line with the questions laid out below. That means there will be three groups.

Each group will have a **facilitator**:

- Theme 1 (Implications of COVID19 – opportunities for the diffusion of learning): Mr. Steffen Soulejman Janus, *Program Lead, Knowledge Sharing and Learning, the World Bank*
- Theme 2 (Capitalising on the EIPs knowledge and partnerships): Mr. Mark Montgomery, *Policy Lead, Governance and Fragile States Policy Unit, Irish Aid*
- Theme 3 (Engagement in development effectiveness narrative): Ms. Rose Wanjiru, *Executive Director, Centre for Economic Governance (CEG)*

Each group will have 30 minutes for participants to exchange the three themes or topics briefly presented at the start of the session.

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION:

The three following topics are proposed for discussion.

1. *What are the **implications of COVID-19 for the EIP and P2P** ways of working? And what, if any role could the EIP play in disseminating or modelling this learning? Are others doing the same?*

This topic could involve:

- a. Identifying what has changed, and the implications of such changes, in the (post) COVID environment? For example, what does it mean to undertake P2P partnerships and learning in the new operational environment? How might these new circumstances enrich peer to peer engagements? What are the constraints and how might these be managed? Considering what, if any role, the EIP could adopt to enhance learning on effective ways of working through peer to peer partnerships in a COVID19 context? Are there any other actors making contributions on this issue?
 - b. How could the EIP best reach beyond its existing platform to engage with the wider development community? Some suggested activities include using web-based tools, making the EIP website a virtual platform for easy to use knowledge exchange and organising more frequent virtual learning events. This could also be extended to creating engagement through social media platforms such as Twitter and Facebook.
2. ***How can the EIP best capitalise on its existing knowledge and methods** (unique 'value add') to have greater reach/impact and enable further diffusion of learning?*
 - a. How could the EIP best leverage its value add to disseminate new and existing learning on effective methods of P2P or alternative ways of working to support

the reform of core government functions? Is there a role for the EIP to dissemination learning within existing networks on core government functions (e.g OECD SOE Latin American Network, Open Government, UCLG), and if so how can the platform best achieve this?

- b. What, if any opportunities, exist to develop new and innovative partnerships for engagement? For example, multilateral policy initiatives (e.g. Tax Inspectors Without Borders) professional peer alliances (such as the OECD Auditor's Alliance, SOE Latin American Network), as well as institutional or regional networks and alliances (European Commission, south-south).

3. How and what might the *EIP* contribute to the refresh on development effectiveness, and what would be the value add for EIP members?

- a. To what extent do the EIP's insights on P2P (for example on building trust, mutuality and ownership) contribute to the principles of development effectiveness (country ownership, focus on results, inclusive partnerships, transparency and mutual accountability)? Are P2P ways of working a viable alternative to existing operational models of cooperating for development results (for example, through technical assistance, use of country systems and direct budget support); and, if so, in what ways might this better align with global commitments on development effectiveness?
- b. How might the EIP best contribute to the OECD-DAC's refresh of its commitments to development effectiveness and to a renewal of the GPEDC monitoring framework?

Timing:

- (i) The breakout groups will be 30 minutes in duration to enable sufficient time for discussion.
- (ii) After 30 minutes each group will return to Plenary and we will have 10 mins for each group to report back on their discussions, followed by an additional 10 min for final plenary discussion.

At the conclusion of the session all participants will have had the opportunity to collectively discuss potential priorities for the EIP's future activities.