



# THE EUROPEAN DEVELOPMENT FUND

## IN A FEW WORDS

# List of countries **benefiting from the European Development Fund**

## **ACP States** (Cotonou Agreement)

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### **Africa (47)**

Angola  
Benin\*  
Botswana  
Burkina-Faso\*  
Burundi\*  
Cameroon  
Cape Verde\*  
Comoros Islands\*  
Congo  
Congo (DRC)\*  
Ivory Coast  
Djibouti\*  
Eritrea\*  
Ethiopia\*  
Gabon  
Gambia\*  
Ghana  
Guinea\*  
Guinea Bissau\*  
Equatorial Guinea  
Kenya  
Lesotho\*  
Liberia\*  
Madagascar\*  
Malawi\*

Mali\*  
Mauritius  
Mauritania\*  
Mozambique\*  
Namibia  
Niger\*  
Nigeria  
Uganda\*  
Central African Republic\*  
Rwanda\*  
Sao Tome & Principe\*  
Senegal\*  
Seychelles  
Sierra Leone\*  
Somalia\*  
Sudan\*  
Swaziland  
Tanzania\*  
Chad\*  
Togo\*  
Zambia\*  
Zimbabwe

### **Caribbean (15)**

Antigua and Barbuda  
Bahamas  
Barbados  
Belize  
Dominica  
Grenada  
Guyana  
Haiti\*  
Jamaica  
Dominican Republic  
St Christopher and Nevis  
St Lucia  
St Vincent and the Grenadines Is.  
Surinam  
Trinidad and Tobago

### **Pacific (14)**

Cook Islands  
Fiji  
Kiribati\*  
Marshall Is.  
Micronesia  
Nauru  
Niue  
Palau  
Papua  
New Guinea  
Samoa\*  
Solomon Is.  
Tonga  
Tuvalu\*  
Vanuatu\*

## **OCT** (Association decision)

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### **Denmark**

Greenland

### **France**

Mayotte  
St Pierre and Miquelon  
Wallis and Futuna  
New Caledonia and Dependencies  
French Polynesia  
French Southern and Antarctic Territories

### **Netherlands**

Aruba  
Dutch West Indies (Bonaire, Curaçao, Saba, Saint Eustatius, Saint Martin)

### **United Kingdom**

Anguilla  
South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands  
Cayman Islands  
Falkland Islands  
Turks and Caicos Islands  
British Virgin Islands  
Montserrat  
Pitcairn  
St Helena and Dependencies  
British Indian Ocean Territory  
British Antarctic Territory

#### \* Least Developed Countries

The ACP Group includes 78 States including Cuba which has not signed the Cotonou Agreement and does not benefit from EDF. South Africa is a member of the ACP Group and the Cotonou Agreement, but the aid that is granted to it by the Union is charged to the Community budget, not to EDF.

# THE EUROPEAN DEVELOPMENT FUND IN A FEW WORDS

4

Introduction

5

What is the purpose of the EDF?

8

What is the origin of EDF resources?

11

Implementing the EDF

17

Who benefits from EDF financing?

20

**Flexible procedures**

The National Programme

The Regional Programme

Management of EDF financial programmes

27

List of EDF  
beneficiary countries

## Introduction

- The European Union is one of the main actors in the field of development cooperation and poverty reduction. Its contribution to development aid has grown considerably in recent years and the range of beneficiaries has broadened. From Latin America to Asia, the Mediterranean countries, the African, Caribbean and Pacific States plus many others, a large number of developing regions benefit from the Union's financial support.
- Today, the combined aid of the European Union and its Member States represents nearly 55% of public international development aid and more than two-thirds of grant aid. On its own, the European Commission, which executes all the Union's decisions, manages 10% of the entire global public development aid, thus making it a priority partner for developing countries. Even now, when public aid is being drastically reduced worldwide, Union resources for development cooperation are still considerable.
- The European Development Fund is a crucial instrument of the European Union's development policy for ACP (Africa, Caribbean and Pacific) States. However, many people have never heard of this instrument or only know about it very vaguely. What is the purpose of the EDF? Who really benefits from it? In practice, how does it operate? These are a few of the questions that this publication attempts to answer. The idea behind *The European Development Fund in a few words* is to provide readers with basic facts on the objectives, characteristics and operating procedures of the main financial instrument for cooperation between the European Union and ACP States.



# What is the purpose of the EDF?

▮ The European Union has maintained cooperative development relations with a large number of developing countries for many years. The main purpose is to promote economic and social development with a particular focus on reducing and alleviating poverty in the long-term, by providing beneficiary countries with technical and financial assistance. To achieve this, the Union draws up the guidelines of the partnership and mobilises financial resources to implement the cooperation agreements. These Community resources allocated to development come from three sources:

- **The European Union budget**
- **The European Development Fund**
- **The European Investment Bank**

- The European Development Fund, or “EDF”, is the main financial instrument used for cooperation between the European Union and the Group of African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) States<sup>1</sup>. For more than forty years it has financed a whole series of development programmes and projects in the group of countries that concluded partnership agreements with the Union (successively the Yaoundé Agreements, the Lomé Conventions, and the Cotonou Agreement). The European Development Fund contributes as well to the development of some twenty Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs)<sup>2</sup> linked to the European Union.
- Since the creation of the first European Development Fund in 1957, each new partnership agreement concluded by the Union with ACP countries and OCTs is associated with an overall fund to implement cooperation during a five-year period. A separate EDF is used for the execution of each of the Conventions except for “Lomé IV” in 1990 which lasted for a period of 10 years. It covered two financial protocols, and two EDFs, the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> EDF. The 9<sup>th</sup> EDF, which begins with the new ACP Partnership Agreement, signed in June 2000 in Cotonou (Benin) will last for twenty years. It will take effect for the first five years after the Agreement has been ratified. Like the Yaoundé and Lomé Conventions before it, the Cotonou Agreement constitutes the legal basis of the development aid granted by the Union to the ACP States.

<sup>1</sup> Today the ACP Group comprises 78 countries. South Africa does not benefit from the EDF because of its particular situation, although it belongs to the ACP Group and the Cotonou Agreement. Cuba is a member of the ACP Group but has not signed the Cotonou Agreement. It therefore does not benefit from the EDF.

<sup>2</sup> These are some 20 territories mainly located in the Pacific and the Caribbean, enjoying various degrees of autonomy, associated with four Member States (France, Denmark, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom).

# The advantages of the EDF in a few points

## ■ The European Development Fund offers ...

**Grants:** The vast majority of financial resources awarded to ACP States by the European Union through the EDF are grants. About 80% are given as subsidies or non-reimbursable aid.

**A significant volume of resources:** The EDF resources are large and have increased with successive Conventions. About €13.5 billion for the 9<sup>th</sup> EDF plus additional funds, raises the total amount of ACP aid to €16.4 billion for five years.

**Long-term financing:** As resources are allocated on a five-yearly basis, the actions financed by the EDF can easily be extended to give long-term support. Regular reviews allow for readjustment should the need arise.

**Flexibility in the system of allocations:** The new system for allocating EDF resources gives priority and incentives to ACP States' performance, as well as sanctioning poor results.

**Co-management mechanisms:** The EDF has a joint management system that gives the beneficiary countries a large role. This also applies to the development of cooperation strategies and programme implementation.

**Resources accessible to civil society:** The partnership with civil society offers civil society organisations more flexible possibilities for EDF funds.

**Support to the development of ACP regions:** The EDF is a financial instrument to support regions as well as ACP States. It provides support to reinforce integration and regional cooperation.

**Stronger support for the fight against poverty:** Through its activities in the social field and other development sectors, the EDF contributes greatly to improving the living conditions of the population and to reducing poverty.



# What is the origin of EDF resources?

- Whereas Community aid to other regions of the world like Asia, Latin America, the Mediterranean or Eastern European countries, comes in general from the Community budget to which Member States contribute annually, the finance allocated to ACP States and OCTs via the EDF comes from another source.
- The European Development Fund's resources are not part of the Community budget. The Fund's financial autonomy from the Community budget is an exception to the general scheme of Community finances, and is thus a unique instrument. However, if EDF resources do not come from the European Union's annual budget, where do they come from?



- The European Development Fund is derived from five-yearly “*ad hoc*” contributions from the Union Member States. Every five years, Member Country representatives meet at intergovernmental level to decide on an overall amount that will be allocated to the Fund and to oversee its implementation. This makes the EDF different from the components of the general budget as it operates according to its own financial regulations<sup>1</sup>. From the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 9<sup>th</sup> EDF, resources have steadily increased with the enlargement of the Union, and as cooperation has evolved and the number of ACP States has increased.
- The financial resources that make up the EDF are taken from the public funds of each Member State, and so are funded directly by European taxpayers.
- Conversely, while the EDF is the main financial instrument for supporting the ACP States and the OCTs, another part of the EU's total aid comes from the Community budget. This share of the main budget is used, in addition to the EDF resources, to finance specific sectors of cooperation such as food aid, humanitarian aid, co-financing with NGOs, as well as cooperation with South Africa, which comes under specified budget lines.

<sup>1</sup> The EDF still operates today on the basis of this special scheme despite attempts by certain Member States, the European Parliament and the European Commission to bring it into the Community budget.

## Role of Member States and the ACP States in the EDF

- While the EU has a development policy towards ACP countries, individual Member States also have their own development and aid policies, which are often based on historic links and solidarity agreements.
- The Member States and the Union development policies are complementary, as it is difficult to manage and implement development issues on an individual basis. The level of EU Member States Official Development Aid (ODA) is currently under discussion. There has been a slight decrease in EU Member States' funding since 1995. The average of Member States' ODA as a percentage of their GNP has fallen slightly (by -9%) compared with 1999.
- In 2000 the countries of the European Union (including the EC) disbursed almost 48% of total global ODA. Of the EU Member States the highest donors were Germany at 9.49% and the UK at 8.40% of ODA. The EC accounts for 9.19% of total ODA and 19.2% of the combined ODA of EU member States. The EU has urged all Member States to reach the ODA target of 0.7% of GNP set by the Millennium Summit in 2000, and reaffirmed at Monterrey in March 2002.
- The Cotonou Agreement framework ensures that EDF-funded programmes are coherent with those of Member States, and that major infrastructure projects (which involve a number of beneficiary countries and donors) are properly coordinated. Key policy areas such as environment and health in the ACP countries can be discussed, addressed and monitored more effectively within this new framework.
- Member States also bear the main responsibility for deciding on the level of EDF contributions on a five-yearly basis. The European Commission is responsible for managing the EDF funds, after EDF Committee consultations.



# Implementing the EDF

- The European Development Funds are traditionally given to ACP States as grants. They enable the financing of several development sectors in ACP States, in accordance with the objectives and provisions of the partnership agreements. Under the Lomé Conventions, EDF allocations and expenditures to the ACP States were granted using as many as 10 specific instruments.
- The new ACP-EU Partnership Agreement signed in Cotonou heralded important improvements in financial cooperation. In order to operate more coherently and efficiently, the number of instruments for grant aid under the Lomé Conventions has been reduced, regrouped and rationalised. The Cotonou Agreement uses a limited number

of instruments instead of the many that existed in the past, when each had its own logic and procedures. The aid granted to ACP States will now be channelled through a long-term development budget, a regional cooperation fund and an investment facility. This reform in the European Union's allocation of resources to ACP States is both more uniform and simpler to manage and allows for improved interaction between the various instruments and development projects.

- Under the new financial protocol, the 9<sup>th</sup> EDF has an allocation of €13.5 billion to be used in the first five years following the application of the Cotonou Agreement. The following instruments are used to support ACP states:

#### **Long-term development aid**

With an allocation of €10 billion, this long-term development aid constitutes the most important pillar of the 9<sup>th</sup> EDF. An allocation is made for each ACP State depending on its specific needs and its performance, in the form of non-reimbursable grants. Its function is to contribute to long-term development. The resources available under this instrument are allocated for financing macro-economic reforms, and sectoral programmes, such as infrastructures, health, education, rural development, etc. The allocation is based on indicative programmes for each country.

## A New EDF

### **The Cotonou Agreement contains the following new rules:**

**An updated structure for poverty alleviation and reduction** – Increased emphasis is given to the individual needs of each partner-country to alleviate poverty. New efforts will be made to ensure the involvement of the poorest countries in the globalisation process.

**Revision of Trade frameworks** – Previous attempts to improve ACP export performances were disappointing, and ACPs' share in total Union imports actually fell. The new framework ensures the integration of ACP economies into the world economy. It enhances their trading capacities, and encourages them to liberalise their trading methods.

**Emphasis on good governance** – Specific measures are designed to avoid serious cases of corruption in order to ensure good governance (aid will be suspended if there is evidence of serious breaches of the agreement). There are also important new measures to prevent the use of tax-payers' money for military purposes.

**Result-orientated framework** – Country allocations are no longer automatic and performances will be assessed on the basis of: implementation of institutional reforms, use of resources, project success, poverty alleviation, and sustainable development. Where these have failed, funds could be reduced.

**Rationalisation of financial implementation** – The two instruments related to export earnings STABEX and SYSMIN, have been abandoned, as they were too unwieldy to operate successfully. The new system has been slimmed down and is now based on two financial instruments – the EDF and the Investment Facility, managed by the European Investment Bank.

## COTONOU AGREEMENT

**Financial resources for the period 2002-2007**  
(in € billion)

**Total volume = 16.4**

9th EDF = 13.5  
of which: Long-term Aid = 10  
Regional Aid = 1.3  
Investment Facility = 2.2

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Remaining balance from previous EDF = 1.2

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EIB Own Funds = 1.7

NB: In addition to the €16.4 billion for ACP States, €175 million is allocated to the OCTs

### **Regional development aid**

Regional development aid is given in the form of non-reimbursable grants. €1.3 billion is reserved for financing actions which support cooperation between, and the regional integration of, ACP States.

### **The Investment Facility**

€2.2 billion is allocated to an investment fund known as the Investment Facility. This Investment Facility, which will be managed by the EIB, will be distributed in the same way as certain resources were administered under the Lomé Convention. It is defined as 'risk capital' and will be used to support private sector development in ACP States by financing essentially – but not exclusively – private investment. Unlike resources of this kind which existed under previous Conventions, the Facility is designed as a renewable fund, so that loan repayments can be reinvested in other operations, thus resulting in a self-renewing and financially-independent Facility.

- The EIB also provides ACP States with an additional €1.7 billion, which is taken from monies raised on financial markets which can then be added to the Facility's budget.
- In addition to the amount available under the 9<sup>th</sup> EDF, the ACP States can also benefit from the non-allocated balances of the previous EDF which currently stand at about €1.2 billion.
- A five-yearly allocation of €175 million is available to the other group of countries, the Overseas Countries and Territories. (OCTs)

## The role of the EIB

- The European Investment Bank (EIB) has a dual function. It manages part of the EDF funds destined mainly for the private sector in ACP States. This finance takes the form of medium- and long-term loans, or of investment in local companies. The Bank also uses funds, which it has raised on international capital markets, to finance larger operations, often in the public sector.
- These funds (€1.7 billion for the 8<sup>th</sup> EDF), are added to those managed by the Bank for the EDF. In both cases, the conditions for loans or finance granted to the private or public sector are given on largely concessional terms. The Lomé Convention sets a minimum interest rate for EDF operations (called risk capital) and for operations using its own resources. A specific allocation for interest subsidies enables the Bank to finance the investments needed for the economic development of these countries at well below market rates.
- The Cotonou Agreement takes an innovatory approach to financing investments managed by the EIB with the creation of a real investment fund: the Investment Facility. This facility, which works more with local and European financial institutions under market conditions, gives the local private sector access to financial resources to finance viable, profitable investments.

## EDF priorities

### **The EDF priorities in determining the allocation of funds are as follows:**

**Economic cooperation** – support structural adjustment policies and economic reforms, particularly through private sector development and debt alleviation measures.

**Regional integration and institutional support** – encourage political, economic and commercial regional integration. Support measures to improve transparency and effective governance.

**Health** – support projects which concentrate on preventive health, health care services, access to affordable medicines and the fight against AIDS and other transmittable diseases.

**Education and Training** – concentrate on supporting improvements in general education, training activities and regional support.

**Rural Development** – support projects related to water management schemes, animal farming, micro-projects, decentralised cooperation, SMEs, crop and animal farming research and fisheries.

**Environment** – support sustainable environmental policies, including forestry management, bio-diversity and conservation.

**Transport and infrastructure** – improve national and regional transport facilities, and assist in improving general infrastructure.

**Horizontal policies** – support human rights and democracy, gender issues, food security and the fight against drug use.





# Who benefits from EDF financing?

- The EDF resources are allocated by the Union in line with the Cooperation Agreements concluded and signed with ACP States. These states are then responsible for managing whatever EDF funding they receive. Other development players also have access to EDF resources, and the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement lists a series of bodies and organisations that are able to apply for EDF funds. Under the Cotonou Agreement, the following are eligible for Union financial support:

- ACP States;
- regional or inter-State organisations where at least one ACP State is a member or where the organisation is authorised by an ACP State;
- bodies set up jointly by the ACP States and the Union to achieve certain specific objectives.

Other organisations can also benefit from financial support with the agreement of the ACP State or States concerned. They are:

- public or semi-public national and/or regional organisations, ministries or local authorities of ACP States, in particular financial institutions and development banks;
- companies, enterprises and other private economic organisations and agents of ACP States;
- an EU Member State enterprise, where this finance is added to the enterprise's own contribution, and thus enables it to make an investment in an ACP State;
- ACP or EU financial intermediaries which grant, promote or finance private investments in ACP States;
- organisations involved in decentralised cooperation, and other civil society actors in ACP States and the Union.

## The EDF serving civil society

|| One of the major innovations of the Cotonou Agreement is that it now includes cooperation with civil society, so that civil society organisations and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) can be involved in the ACP-EU partnership. NGOs can now help to define, develop and implement development programmes and projects in ACP States, because of their experience in fighting poverty. Provided that their governments agree, NGOs and other civil society organisations have more flexible access to EDF financing than in the past.

- NGOs can benefit from EDF resources provided that this is included in the programme agreed between the EU and the recipient country. In principle up to 15% of the total amount allocated to a country can be used by NGOs and other civil society organisations.
- The Cotonou Agreement opens possibilities for more direct access to EDF resources for NGOs, again with government agreement.
- Civil society organisations can directly benefit from EDF financing for actions that fall under decentralised cooperation activities.



# Flexible procedures

■ The objective of the European Development Fund is to channel most of the Union aid to ACP States through specific financial operations and procedures. Even though the contributions that make up the Fund come from Member States, the European Commission is responsible for managing the EDF. The EDF Committee<sup>1</sup>, which is composed of Member States, is entitled to supervise the way the funds are distributed.

At the beginning of the period covered by the EDF programme, activities to be financed by EDF subsidiaries are programmed at national and regional level. The process, in which civil society actors can now participate, is prepared by the authorities of each country and each region in close collaboration with the Commission through its local representatives. Its aim is to determine the objectives, and priorities for each country and region, the amounts to be allocated and the different strategies to be employed to ensure that the programme is implemented efficiently.

<sup>1</sup> The Commission presides over the EDF Committee which consists of representatives of each Member State. It gives its opinions on proposals for financing EDF projects. In the future, it will have a larger say on strategic aspects of cooperation.

## Who decides what for the EDF?

- EU development cooperation policy results from a combination of complex internal legislative and budgetary procedures, and international agreements. The European Commission, the European Parliament, and the EU Council of Ministers are the major players in this process.
- The Commission makes proposals for legislation, manages and executes cooperation programmes, and negotiates agreements with third countries.
- The European Parliament has the right to amend, approve, or reject certain Commission's proposals on international agreements (including the Cotonou Agreement). The European Parliament, with the Council of Ministers, determines the Union's expenditure and controls the Commission's activities.
- The European Parliament controls the implementation of measures relating to the EDF and agrees the release of funds for implementing EDF operations. This is the only financial cooperation agreement over which it has no influence on the amounts allocated, because the EDF is not part of the Community budget and is therefore not subject to the European Parliament's approval.
- The ultimate decision-making power belongs to the EDF Committee – in which the 15 Member States are represented. Decisions on legislative matters are reached by a qualified majority, while those on the conclusion of association agreements require unanimity.

## ■ The National Programme

- At the beginning of the programme, the European Union informs the ACP States about the level of grants which are available to them over the five-year period. Within the framework of the Cotonou Agreement a rolling programme was introduced under which resources are allocated based on a country's specific needs, but, more importantly, on its performance. Long-term grants are no longer allocated automatically, but are now given after the recipient country's own efforts have been taken into account. The new system therefore includes performance incentives and responsibility, and this can result in an increase in resources for the most effective, and a reduction in resources for the least effective, countries. An ACP State can now receive more financial resources than the aid package stipulated and vice versa, based on regular performance reviews.
- The beneficiary country develops a cooperation strategy after holding consultations with its development players. This cooperation strategy includes both the country's own medium-term development strategies, an analysis of the political and socio-economic context, plus the European Union's own assessment. Here, the European Commission's staff 'on the ground' provide technical support to the national authorities in preparing the cooperation strategy document.
- A *National Indicative Programme* (NIP) is then drawn up to implement the cooperation strategy. The NIP defines the sectors and fields which will receive the aid, explains how the aid will fulfil its objectives, gives a timetable for implementation, and specifies how NGOs will be involved in the programme (if relevant). This programme is subject to an annual, mid-term and end-of-the-EDF-term review and improvements and changes are made when necessary during its operation period.

## Cotonou Agreement: Innovations in development cooperation

|| The new Partnership Agreement between the European Union and the States in the ACP Group was signed on 23 June 2000 in Cotonou for a 20-year period. It includes a clause for a five-yearly review. It succeeds the Lomé Conventions in force since 1975 and it has a radically new vision of cooperation. The new ACP-EU Partnership combines development aid, a political dimension, and commercial aspects. Its main objective is the reduction of poverty in ACP States. The Cotonou Agreement revolves around five major priorities which correspond to Union development policy:

- poverty reduction (its central focus);
- reinforcing the political dimension;
- opening the partnership to civil society;
- developing a new framework for economic and commercial cooperation;
- improving financial cooperation.

The Cotonou Agreement constitutes the legal basis for development aid provided by the Union to the ACP States via the resources of the European Development Fund. The allocation and expenditure of these resources comply with the provisions provided by this new Agreement.

## ACP Ownership

■ The new Cotonou Agreement provides ACP countries with more control and ownership over the management and the use of the funds.

The main elements in the Cotonou Agreement are:

- The emphasis on the political dimension and political dialogue between the EU and the recipient country's authorities.
- Performances are monitored in order to improve effectiveness.
- A renewed emphasis on good governance, and the struggle against corruption.

### ■ The Regional programme

• During this stage financial planning is carried out on the activities which will benefit ACP states *regionally*. Here the ACP States themselves define the geographical region. As with the other instruments, the Union announces the amount available, then a regional strategy is developed and a Regional Indicative Programme (RIP) is established. The regional cooperation programmes are prepared jointly between the EU and the appointed regional bodies. Financial cooperation between the EU and the ACP regions is very flexible so that adjustments can be made to take account of regional developments, which come to light during programme reviews which are held regularly.



## Management of EDF financial programmes

- Once the programme phase is complete and the Agreement has come into force<sup>1</sup>, the programme implementation stage begins. Usually the application for finance must be submitted by the ACP State or regional authorities, while the study into the projects is done jointly by the recipient country government and the European Union. Normally, the EDF financial programmes follow a very precise management cycle, separated into several phases beginning with the programme phase, followed by the implementation phase and ending with an assessment.
- Following the reforms for managing European aid, the Commission's Directorate-General for Development is in charge of the programming and strategic phase. The implementation of EDF projects is carried out by the recently formed 'EuropeAid Cooperation Office' which is responsible for all European aid. The ACP-EU Council of Ministers plays a key role in defining financial cooperation priorities and supervising their implementation.
- In practice, the EDF execution period goes well beyond the nominal period of five years set out in the Partnership Agreement. The ratification of the Partnership Agreement generally takes place at least two years after its signature, which delays the start-up of the new EDF. Resources of several EDFs often overlap, so they are generally managed simultaneously during a five-year period. The transitional measures adopted by the ACP-EU Council of Ministers provide continuity of cooperation between two EDFs<sup>2</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> The resources of a new EDF are only available once the Partnership Agreement has been ratified by all EU Member States and two-thirds of the ACP States.

<sup>2</sup> For this purpose, the balance of €1.2 billion still available under the 8<sup>th</sup> EDF is being used to finance projects and programmes listed under the strategic document until the 9<sup>th</sup> EDF comes into force.

# The agents responsible for executing the EDF

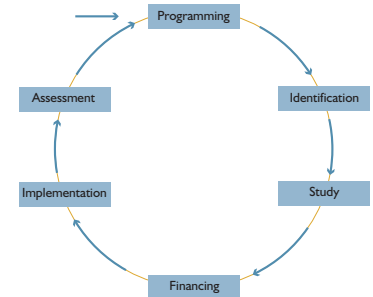
## European Union

- **The Chief Authorising Officer:** Appointed by the European Commission, the chief authorising officer (currently the European Commissioner responsible for development and humanitarian aid) is the Union official in charge of managing EDF resources. In this capacity, s/he is responsible for the commitment, auditing, authorisation and accounting of the expenditures financed by the Fund.
- **The Head of the Delegation of the European Commission:** S/he is the local liaison between the Commission and the national or regional ACP authorities in the field. S/he works in close collaboration with the national or regional authorising officers in defining the strategy and sectoral policies, preparing, studying and reviewing of EDF programmes and projects. The deconcentration of assignments decided by the reform of the management of European aid reinforces the role of the Commission Delegations. In the future they will be asked to do even more tasks associated with the management cycle of EDF financial programmes.

## Recipient Country

- **The National Authorising Officer:** This is a senior official appointed by the government of each ACP State. S/he represents the authorities of his/her country for all activities financed by the Fund and managed by the Commission and by the EIB. In most cases, these functions are exercised by a member of the government, generally the State Minister of Planning or Finance. The national authorising officer carries out the administrative, technical and financial duties of managing EDF programmes and projects

## The cycle of EDF projects



## To learn more

Consult the sites of the European institutions via the Europa server:

<http://europa.eu.int>

EuropeAid : [http:// europa.eu.int/comm/europaid](http://europa.eu.int/comm/europaid)

DG Development: <http:// europa.eu.int/comm/development>

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/development/cotonou/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/development/cotonou/index_en.htm)

Email : [europaid.info@cec.eu.int](mailto:europaid.info@cec.eu.int)

Email: [development@cec.eu.int](mailto:development@cec.eu.int)

*The Cotonou Agreement (The Official Journal of the European Union)*

*The Cotonou Agreement and its annexes (Special Issue of the ACP-EU Courier)*

*InfoFinance: Annual brochure published by the European Commission on the operational situation of Community aid in favour of ACP States and OCT*

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