

Report on the meeting of the CELEP Core Group 22–24 April 2014

1. List of participants

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2. Summary

Day 1

Time	Subject
12h-13h30	Lunch
Mapping session led by An Van Goey, external consultant involved in CELEP mapping exercise.	
13h30-15h30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation on the results of the mapping exercise • First ideas on clusters.
15h30- 15h45	Coffee break
15h45-18h	Discussion on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clusters: based on the combination of this mapping exercise with previous mappings • Identifying opportunities entry points for advocacy activities with the EU • Identifying gaps and action points to increase advocacy capacities of CELEP • Combining the ideas for entry points with the action plan for CELEP established in Rome in 2013
18h	End of the first day

The day began with a presentation of the survey. An Van Goey, the consultant hired by CELEP to conduct the mapping exercise together with a trainee, presented the first results. So far, 50 people completed the survey. The aim of the survey is to find out who the members of the google group are in order to define entry points for CELEP activities. The final result of the mapping survey will be presented at the annual meeting and will be composed of a document with an information sheet per organization/entity that completed the survey. The collected information will lead to the creation of an internal database that will contribute to the institutional memory of CELEP. Based on the first results, some categories can already be distinguished: European NGOs, local East-African NGOs, research/knowledge institutes, donors and others. Each organization/entity will also get a label either as member of the google group, EU member or EA partner. Next to a narrative document, there will also be an excel list with main contact details for quick searches. This will be useful as a database for CELEP members and partners.

During this session, we also talked about membership and partnership of CELEP. Together, we defined **two criteria for membership** of which either one or the other has to be fulfilled to continue being a member:

- Contribution to the funding
- Active participation through the google group or in another way

The first results of the survey also clarified that some members of the google group are local CSOs from other Eastern African countries than those in which active partners of CELEP are already present. This offers opportunities to expand CELEP into the entire Eastern African Region instead of being limited to Kenya, Tanzania, Ethiopia and Uganda. At the same time, some of the European members are also active in other Eastern African countries than those mentioned above. Finally, different conclusions were made and transformed into action points for the coming months.

Day 2: April 23th

Time	Subject
Capacity building session, led by An Van Goey	
9h30-12h00	Increasing advocacy capacities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to engage with EU officials, delegations, etc. Using advocacy tools <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 golden rules for developing effective messages • One-to-one Lobbying • 'Sticky Questions' Paper • Engaging with the (social) media and public • The 'One Minute' Message • ...
12h-13h	Lunch break
13h-14h	Discussion on past activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation by Koen Van Troos (FP) to give a state of play on the Brussels level • Presentation by EA partner to give a state of play on the ground, Suggestion: Peter
14h-14h45	Preparing the visit of the Commission (FP will give some indications): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Entry points: develop views on how CELEP can be included in the new paper the Commission will develop on pastoralism. • Request from the Commission
14h45-15h	Break and preparing visit of the EC officials (TBC)
15h-17h45	Discussion with EC officials: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recap what is CELEP, major accomplishments,... by one of the EA partners and focusing on particular field examples and particular issues and answers to be supported by the commission. • EC officials present opportunities for engagement with EU • Discussion
17h45-18h	Conclusion of the discussion with the EC, identifying entry points

On the second day of the meeting, the planning was changed a bit based on the evaluation of the previous day. The day started with a presentation of the most recent activities at the EU level and at

the Eastern African level, presented by the focal point and RECONCILE. Both of the presentations were based on the action plan that was concluded and approved at the last annual meeting in Rome in 2013. These presentations were followed by an interesting training led by An Van Goey on influencing EU policy. Based on this capacity building, a toolkit will be developed and sent through the CELEP network.

In the afternoon, Roberto Aparicio Martin, the new person in charge of pastoralism at DG DEVCO C1, joined our meeting to exchange on the plans of the European Commission (EC) regarding pastoralism in Eastern Africa. The focal point had also contacted DG ECHO to send a delegation to participate in the meeting but got a formal refusal: *“Although ECHO does fund projects in pastoralist areas, Pastoralism is not as such a population that ECHO focuses on, unless this group is the victim of a major crisis and is deprived of any sources of income as during the 2011 Drought in the Horn of Africa. ECHO, as a needs-based Humanitarian Donor, focuses on the most vulnerable populations. Currently, in the Horn of Africa, ECHO’s focus would be more on those who have dropped-out from pastoralism following the 2011 Drought and who have been left without any livelihood. ECHO understands the economic importance of pastoralism for a certain number of regions but believes that if needed, Pastoralism should be supported by Development actors in a long-term perspective”.*

Overall, the meeting with Roberto went very well and he was very much open to exchange with CELEP. The summary underneath gives an idea of the different topics that were discussed and entry points for advocacy towards the EC. It also gives some insights on how collaboration with CSOs and NGOs is seen at the EC level.

Roadmaps

One of the first topics that was addressed at the meeting was on the “roadmaps” that are currently being developed as country level. These roadmaps will be the basis for EU development aid interventions up to 2020. The process of putting together roadmaps involves bilateral consultations between the Commission and the national governments. It is up to the governments to decide if they want to bring in local CSO representatives. At the Brussels level, the Commission is in touch only with the delegations. The delegations now have the power and the ability to get in touch with CSOs if they want to. For the EC, relations with CSOs are not always that easy because a large part of the development aid goes to the government and supporting government activities. That is also why the EC is not always able to take a strong position in sensitive matters. As CSOs, however, strong positions can be encouraged with the Parliament, which is a real entry point for CSOs. Regarding the minimum standards on Responsible Agricultural Investment (RAIs), for example, it is difficult for the EC to have a strong view on things. The EC will most likely not take a strong stand in the debate on the RAIs.

Regarding local CSOs, however, there is an opening through the Development Cooperation Instrument and the European Development Fund (DCI and EDF). Some budget lines exist to support farmers’ organisations. Under the previous programs, some farmers’ organisations such as ROPPA and Réseau Bilateral Maroobe already received some funding. The idea of the Commission consists of providing something like this next year specifically for pastoralists. At this point, however, this is still very unsure.

Concerning the roadmaps, three focal sectors have to be chosen per country. The number of sectors per country is limited because the EC has to clearly show what they are doing. They have to have a visible impact. This process on the roadmaps, however, is still ongoing since, in some countries, these sectors still have to be refined; some other countries have already submitted their three focal sectors. Most countries have included governance as one of the focal sectors in the roadmaps and many countries have also included agriculture in some form. In Africa, Roberto thinks that about 8 countries have included pastoralism as one of the focal sectors for EC development aid and that one of them is Ethiopia. In Ethiopia, because of the difficult situation for CSOs, the local CSOs should try to get in touch with their national parliaments to be included in the operationalization of the roadmaps. In other EA countries, the local CSOs should try to get in touch with local Delegations and present themselves and their issues. Local CSOs themselves should ask for negotiation space.

Role of NGOs and local CSOs

According to Roberto, NGOs should be more ambitious and should focus more on proposing and finding solutions on a bigger scale. The Commission should focus mainly on working with the government. NGOs need to prove to the Commission that they can make a sound analysis on a regional and national scale so projects and programmes can be duplicated elsewhere. Therefore, the Commission chooses to work mainly with governments.

Agenda for Change

During his visit, Roberto reaffirmed that the EC considers the Agenda for Change the EC's "bible" when it comes to development policy. He specifically expressed the need to combine national defined strategies and priorities with the Agenda for Change. He said that two specific points of the Agenda for Change are of particular interest for the Commission: gender relations (and specifically women's empowerment and private sector). The idea of working together with the private sector is to also mobilize African money and in particular work together with small and medium enterprises. New financing tools for this have been and will be developed.

Technical Note on pastoralism

Roberto informed the CELEP core group that very soon (within a few months) figures of how much development aid is going to pastoralism programs and projects will be available. Certain envelopes are reserved per country and per focal sector.

The Commission is developing a technical note on pastoralism. The deadline for this note is in the next months. At this stage, it is a draft and the intention is to finish the note and have it shared by all European External Action Services (EEAS) delegations and all Commission staff in Brussels. The document as it is right now still has to be summarized and improved. It is based on a technical note designed by Michele Nori, who is right now working for the EC delegation in Mauretania. The document will be used as a reference document when the delegations have to engage with local and regional governments. It will be for internal use only. CELEP suggested at the meeting that it would be a good idea to organize trainings in Brussels on pastoralism for the EC delegations. CELEP could organize lunchtime training sessions.

The technical note will be 10–12 pages long and can be sent to CELEP for comments. At this point, there is already a first draft. It will focus on different issues such as security, conflict and land tenure;



but also on economic development and importance of pastoralism. CELEP could make a contribution to the document as the Commission is still looking for figures. The Commission is also interested in some specific cases on land tenure and investment. Roberto is interested in some best examples. CELEP could share them with him. The Commission is interested in solutions to challenges that work. Presenting success stories therefore is a great way to engage with the Commission.

FAO-EU paper and research proposals

On a side note, Roberto also mentioned that the Commission is working closely with the FAO. The idea now would be develop an FAO-EU paper on sustainable agriculture. This document would be based on the definition of sustainable agriculture that can also be found in the Agenda for Change. However, the definition of sustainable agriculture is still very wide and still needs to be refined. Roberto also talked about the possibility to introduce research proposals at the Commission level. The Commission is very interested in proposals for research on conflict. We could propose something on water and conflict for example.

DEVCO – ECHO

ECHO does not want to be involved in pastoralism. According to them, pastoralists are not the most vulnerable and therefore they cannot be included in humanitarian aid projects and programs. Through LRRD and more specifically the programs “The Global Alliance for Resilience Initiative” (AGIR) and “Supporting the Horn of Africa's Resilience” (SHARE) ECHO stays a bit in pastoralism, but in general they consider pastoralism to be outside of their mandate.

Summary

Thanks to this meeting, some interesting entry points were defined (roadmaps on the delegation level and the technical note on the Brussels level), several assumptions were confirmed (such as the growing role and importance of the local delegations and the European Parliament in terms of defining development policies) and important relations were re-established (through Roberto, the new person in charge of pastoralism at DEVCO). The challenge will be to follow up on these recommendations and report on them at the next annual meeting.

Day 3: April 24th

Time	Subject
9h30-12h00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Next Annual Meeting • Advocacy strategy: messages • On-going activities in EU member states • Pilots • Funding opportunities for CELEP and action plan activities • Discussion on a briefing paper on pastoralism and gender • LAPSSET • Other
12h00-12h30	Concluding remarks and action points till next Annual Meeting
Noon – 2 PM	Concluding lunch

On the third day, the discussions of the past days were summarized into clear and specific actions. Next to this presentation, there was also a discussion on some issues that were “parked” since the beginning of the meeting and also on issues that were predefined. Below you can find a summary of these issues and actions.

- **Fifth Annual Meeting**
 - FP asks VSF-Germany to host and organize
 - Misereor will be contacted for funding, also possibility for a meeting room (Aachen)
 - Dates: End of September - first half of October

- **Pilots**
 - Decision to pursue possibility to reintroduce a pilot project. In July there is another opportunity to introduce pilot projects, but only by new MEPs. The possibility to introduce a pilot project therefore depends on finding a new MEP willing to do so.
 - The decision was taken that the pilot that was originally developed with MEP Kaczmarek and got a status B will be reintroduced.
 - Thomas (Concern) will be asked to coordinate the pilot project on behalf of CELEP
 - Koen will send all the necessary info.

- **Funding opportunities**
 - CELEP can also be part of a project without becoming formal as it can do so through one of its members
 - Previous project proposals where CELEP was included
 - For now, try and get separate funding for individual activities from the Action Plan
 - Members can also contribute to funding “in kind”, for example by hosting the annual meeting

- **Members (mapping): conclusion**
 - Possibility to extend to Eastern Europe (FP will try to contact):
 - Heifer Poland? Others?
 - University Romania?
 - Scandinavian (FP will try to contact)
 - DanChurch Aid
 - ADRA (Adventist Relief Agency)

- **Request to have CELEP participate in the Indigenous Peoples Conference in Pretoria**
 - **CELEP** is putting livelihood at the forefront and not the indigenous peoples concept
 - Suggestion: CELEP partners/members can take part in the conference on their own initiative, representing their own organisation. It is outside of the scope of CELEP.

- **Extractives**
 - This could be a theme for a regional briefing
 - Technical note EU for investments (work around that to see how we can change and use this around our interventions around the issue)
 - Lamu Port and Lamu Southern Sudan Ethiopia Transport Corridor (LAPSSET) – Windmills (the wind energy case will be developed by Cordaid)
 - Website: under folders there is extractives, Ann (ETC) and Rogier (Cordaid) will work together to make it visible in the dropdown menu under “Documents”.



- **Godfather/mother Patron: deadline: 2015**
 - A proposal was made about the Oscar award winner Lupita Nyong'o as a possible patron and in this connection, it was important to draw the link between RECONCILE's connection to the star through the father Professor Anyang' Nyong'o board member of RECONCILE and who is also a personal friend to the former Executive Director of RECONCILE Michael Ochieng Odhiambo.
 - To discuss at next AM