

International workshop

SUSTAINABILITY OF DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE: Problems, Prospects and Perspectives

14 September 2023

University of Fribourg, Boulevard de Pérolles 90, 1700 Fribourg
Building PER 21, Room Number C130

Synopsis

Development assistance had emerged as an integrative part of the post-Second World War order as one of the instruments to promote development, provide relief from crises, and alleviate poverty. Development assistance has metamorphosed in multiple ways, stretched to different parts of the world, and transformed its goals, organization structures and means to promote development. The transformations came as a response to numerous critiques and studies that in the past three decades have pointed to ineffective delivery of aid because of aid dependency, the ownership and principle-agent problem, poor knowledge coordination, low level of transparency related to the aid efficiency, and neglecting resourcefulness of local people, institutions, and businesses. Parallel to its inner structural problems, development assistance is facing continuing political, economic, and environmental crises that put to the fore ever new challenges in prioritizing and distribution of aid. In past years, several international events have tried to catalyze solutions for more effective development assistance. Yet, it remains to be seen how and whether the planned revisions will be implemented.



Exploring institutional and social challenges

The workshop aims to discuss the sustainability of development assistance in the light of the current global complexities and to explore development assistance – sustainability nexus, tackling the following issues:

- What are the minimal requirements that would make development assistance more sustainable and effective?
- Do improved transparency and accountability of development assistance contribute to more aid effectiveness?
- In what situations is shifting from aid to investment sustainable?
- How can development assistance be an enabler of private sector investment and inclusive markets driven by local entrepreneurs?
- How can development assistance mitigate risk-averse practices and include recipients who are prone to taking risks?
- How can non-tangible sustainability goals (e.g., applying knowledge to development) become better integrated in development assistance?

In view of the global Sustainability Development Goals set for 2030, the workshop strives to explore both development policies and local solutions that can be conducive to local businesses and regional growth.

Sustainability of Development Assistance: Problems, Prospects and Perspectives

Thursday, 14 September 2023

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9.30

Welcome

Agnieszka Joniak-Lüthi (UNIFR)

Philipp Aerni (HEG-FR/CCRS)

Jovana Dikovic (CCRS)

9.45 – 10.30

Problems, prospects, and perspectives of development assistance

Debate with Samuel Misteli (all participants, hybrid)

10.30 – 11.00

Catalyzing change

Roland Decorvet: “Impact Investing in Agribusiness in Africa”

Coffee break

11.15 – 12.45

Panel 1: Ownership and sustainability of development assistance

Moderator: Jovana Dikovic

Ryan Briggs: “Why Does Aid Not Target the Poorest?”

Pranvera Mucaj: “Multi-Stakeholder Ownership and Sustainability in the Context of Development Projects: A Case Study of Kosovo”

Philipp Aerni: “Principal-Agent Problem in Development Assistance”

12.45 – 13.45

Lunch

13.45 – 15.15 Panel 2: Accountability and sustainability of development assistance

Moderator: Agnieszka Joniak-Luthi

Patrick Milabyo Kyamusugulwa: “Practices and Outcomes of Social Accountability, Gender, and Power in Community-driven Reconstruction: Cases from the Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo” (online)

Kamran Hakiman and Jeniffer Brick-Murtazashvili: “Reimagining Participation in Development”

Philippe Foret: “The Sustainability of China’s Development Assistance (CDA)”

Coffee break

15.30 – 17.00 Panel 3: Correctives to development assistance

Moderator: Till Mostowlansky

Toni Stadler: “What Development Path for Kosovo?”

Lisa Marie Zammit: “Towards More Effective, Inclusive and Sustainable Development Assistance: An Analysis of Approaches that Create Structural Change in the Food Sector”

Jovana Dikovic: “Becoming an Entrepreneur through Development Projects: Lessons from Rural Kosovo for Preventing the Failure”

Coffee break

17.15 – 18.45 Panel 4: Enabling change: problems and opportunities

Moderator: Hans Rentsch

Neha Yadav: “Addressing Risk-Averse Practices in Development Assistance for Mountain Communities in the Indian Himalayan Region”

Fisnik Recica: “The Impact of Development Assistance on Innovation of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) in Kosovo”

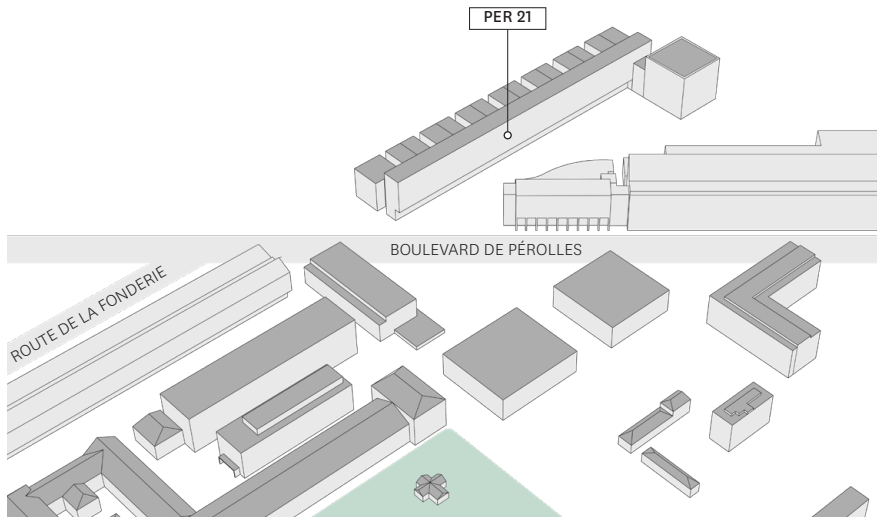
Pauline Koelbl: “How Can Development Assistance be an Enabler of Private Sector Investment and Inclusive Markets Driven by Local Entrepreneurs”

19.00

Dinner and concluding words

Workshop location

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Dinner

Brasserie le Boulevard
Boulevard de Pérolles 39
www.leboulevard.ch

Accommodation

Hotel Alpha
Rue du Simplon 13, 1700 Fribourg, Tel: +41 26 322 72 72

Contact person and workshop organizer

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