

ABOUT EARN

EARN is the acronym for *Europe–Africa Policy Research Network*. It is a non-governmental initiative from a group of African and European Institutes, Centres and Networks aiming to contribute to the *EU–Africa Political Dialogue*. It was launched in Lisbon, at the eve of the 2nd European Union–Africa Summit of Heads of State and Government and its governance bodies decided in Brussels on April 2008.

The *vision* of the network is of an effective political dialogue between Europe and Africa to help increase relations, to face common challenges and to foster peaceful and sustainable development in both continents. Its *mission* is to contribute to these goals by strengthening Euro–African partnerships among non-governmental actors, through networking, joint activities and development of knowledge and institutional capacities. *Objectives* are set around political dialogue on common concerns which arise from bilateral relations as well as from global or local challenges on various fields.

The *membership criteria* defines EARN as a group of European and African non-governmental organisations, with intellectual and operational independence, coming from a broad range of fields – academic, development, humanitarian, political, security – in order to allow diverse perspectives based on updated and accurate information. It also calls for track expertise and active participation on activities, and members are asked to pay for its own expenses of involvement on network activities.

The *added value* of EARN results not only from its goals, composition and outputs, but also from its focus and approach. *Focus* is on challenges that affect both continents, in order to increase reciprocal awareness of realities and to foster debate on common concerns and possible answers, avoiding donor–recipient or recipient–donor attitudes. *Approach* is policy-oriented in order to inform the public opinion and the decision-makers on analysis and proposals from non-governmental actors. The approach is also on building working partnerships of African and European institutions.

The *governance* of the network is headed by a *steering committee* of 9 members, chaired by the Lisbon Institute for Strategic and International Studies, (IEEI) and co-chaired by the European Centre for Development Policy Management (ECDPM) and the South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA). A *coordination team* gives support to the network. Some *Working Groups* were already established: global issues; peace & security; governance; trade & regional integration; poverty reduction & development. EARN is interested in a number of Partnership Actions envisaged in the Joint Africa–EU Strategy and Plan of Action. However, its activities will also cut across various fields of common interest, allowing for more global and non-sector based approaches.

EARN Members*(as of 30 October 2010)***ADRA – Acção para o Desenvolvimento Rural e Ambiente**

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