

« FICHE CONTRADICTOIRE »

Evaluation of the Commission's support to the Republic of India

(*For details on the recommendations please refer to the main report)

Recommendations	Response of Commission services	Follow-up (one year later)
<p>1. The EC should prioritise improved governance and accountability in its work in the two social sectors where the majority of support is granted and use its leverage capacity to facilitate structural reforms.</p>	<p>Accepted. The EC is well advanced in the programming of its forthcoming interventions in Health and Education earmarked in the CSP 2007-13 and MIP 2007-10. The new budget support programmes are stronger in terms of governance, benefiting from the home-grown focus on devolution, including enhanced role for PRIs (Panchayati Raj Institutions, democratic bodies at local level) as well as efforts made on better financial management at the behest of donors (including World Bank). Joint Review Missions, where the EC has adequate representation, ensure due control and follow up of these issues.</p>	
<p>2. The EC should increase the focus on support to public providers of social services since, in health and education, the private sector plays a growing role. This issue should be included in the sector support programmes.</p>	<p>Accepted. While the EC allocates funds to the Government (which receives the bulk of our support) and non-profit actors, it also recognises the role of private sector. In particular in the health sector, Public-Private-Partnerships (PPP) are envisaged to bridge shortcoming in the public sector delivery when applicable. NGO projects help sometimes to reach difficult groups (also, in education, NGO initiatives support and complement Government programmes. Consistency with Budget Support Programmes is ensured in the local NSA call for proposals launched in 2008 for interventions in the field of health and education.</p>	
<p>3. The EC should invest more efforts in activities that reflect the diversity and maturity of EU-India relations beyond the two traditional spheres of development co-operation:</p>	<p>Agreed: With the second priority of the CSP 2007-13 devoted to the implementation of the Joint Action Plan, this suggestion is fully taken into account. However, as the DCI Regulation (1905/2006) demands a focus on poverty alleviation, and therefore project design in more diverse areas must be carefully positioned in order to avoid criticism at various stages of DCI scrutiny (eg.</p>	

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<p>a. Intensify efforts to <i>identify niches</i> where the EC can add value (e.g. multicultural exchanges).</p> <p>b. <i>Engage with a wider spectrum of civil society organisations</i></p> <p>c. <i>Enhance educational exchanges</i> and expand opportunities being granted, such as the Erasmus Mundus.</p> <p><i>Expand media exchanges</i> centred on, for example, investigative journalism and other critical roles of the media in a democratic society.</p>	<p>Commission internal services, Member States, and European Parliament). The EC is committed to engage with wider spectrum of civil society organisations and we hope that visibility efforts as well as the option of a local NSA call would offer the opportunity to bring in new recipients. Also worth noting, the European Business and Technology Centre (EBTC) which is being funded outside DCI budget.</p> <p>The overall objective of this call for proposals is the establishment of a European Business and Technology Centre to improve links between European and Indian businesses and with Science and Technology (ST) stakeholders involving business, industry and public bodies with a view to essentially promote the EU interests in India and tap the fast-growing Indian economy.</p>	
<p>4. EC should strengthen impact evaluations and information sharing. Most of the monitoring, reviews, audit and evaluation reports concentrate mainly on inputs process and outputs, and few have been able to determine if changes in outcomes can be attributed to the EC intervention in the programmes supported.</p>	<p>Accepted. The EC takes note of this recommendation that was shared by the recent evaluation of DfID’s India Programme for 2002-05. Together with other contributors in Centrally Sponsored Schemes (budget support programmes in Education and Health), the European Commission will aim at ensuring that impact evaluation features prominently in the Terms of Reference of Joint Review Missions that take place on a yearly basis. There could not be however additional review mechanisms that would focus on EC support alone as this would not be in line with Paris principles for aid effectiveness.</p> <p>Monitoring of stand-alone projects is ensured by consultants whose contract and agreed methodology are not India-specific. The standard Result Oriented Monitoring Report clearly contains a section “impact to date”.</p>	